THE

SHEPHERD'S SON;

OR,

THE WISH ACCOMPLISHED.

A Moral Tale.

INTERSPERSED WITH

POETICAL EFFUSIONS,

DESIGNED FOR

THE IMPROVEMENT OF YOUTH.

BY THE REV. THOMAS SMITH.

Youth, like a flow'r, requires ſome foſt'ring hand,
To tend its ſoil, or bid its leaves expand;
To watch its progreſs with inceſſant care,
And ſhield its breaſt from peſtilential air.

LONDON:

PRINTED FOR E. NEWBERY, THE CORNER OF ST. PAUL'S CHURCH-YARD.

BY G. WOODFALL, PATERNOSTER-ROW, LONDON.

1800.

BRITISH MUSEUM

CONTENTS.

Chap I.. DESCRIBING ſome Characters found in the Work.

II. A Summer's Morning; a Song; and a pleaſing Surprize.

III. The Promiſe fulfilled; a Journey; and a Boarding-School.

IV. Two oppoſite Characters; an Excurſion; and a Misfortune.

V. The Return; Repentance; and ſalutary Counſel.

VI. A Recovery; a Ramble; and an Act of Charity.

VII. The Stranger's Hiſtory; and the Youth's Return.

VIII. The Jubilee.

IX. A Viſitor; a Letter; and a Removal.

X. The

Chap. X. The Propoſal; Gratitude; and a Scene of Affection.

XI. The Anſwer; a Preſent; and a Promiſe.

XII. Embarkation; Reflections; and a Song.

XIII. The Voyage concluded with ſincere Rejoicings.

XIV. A Stroke of Fate; a Will; and a Letter.

XV. Our Hero's Return; Reception; and Interview with a Lady.

XVI. A Proof of Affection; Confeſſion; and Acceptance.

XVII. The Cottage new-modelled; and a Seat erected.

XVIII. The Wedding Morning; and the Wiſh accompliſhed.

THE

SHEPHERD'S SON;

OR,

THE WISH ACCOMPLISHED.

CHAP. I.

DESCRIBING SOME CHARACTERS FOUND IN THE WORK.

In a pleaſant village, near fifty miles from London, reſided Mr. Loveboy, in a beautiful houſe which he had erected on a riſing ground, commanding a very extenſive view of the country, while the ſpacious gardens, enriched with the moſt ſtately trees, charming ſhrubs, and fragrant flowers, ſeemed to eclipſe the beauty of each ſurrounding habitation.

The owner of this elegant retreat was a gentleman of large fortune, and the deſcendant of a reſpectable family, eſteemed by the rich, and nearly adored by the poor, who juſtly ſtiled him their unfailing friend, their patron, and benefactor. To the former he demonſtrated the matchleſs felicity attendant upon a virtuous life; and to the latter, his wealth, his counſel, or aſſiſtance, were readily given on every emergency.

The children, likewiſe, when tripping o'er the lawn, ſmiled at his name, and bleſſed his bounteous goodneſs; for ſuch were the darling objects of his moſt peculiar attention. For theſe he purchaſed the moſt valuable and entertaining little publications, and kindly diſcharged the expences

pences attendant upon the ſchooling of the peaſant's deſtitute family: nay, ſome were even ſent to an academy, at which they were ſupplied with raiment, board, and education, by his orders; and when he found them ſufficiently qualified, he kindly put them forward in the world, by placing them in ſuch a buſineſs, or line of occupation, as appeared the moſt congenial with their native turn of mind, or beſt adapted to their health and abilities.

In brief, we muſt inform our readers, the amiable perſon we are attempting to deſcribe, was a faithful ſervant to his Great Creator, and a pattern of goodneſs to his fellow-creatures. Noble in his perſon, affable in his deportment, and ſincere in his

his profeſſions, he drew the affections of every ſurrounding cottager to his ſeat, and unfeigned petitions were daily wafted to Paradiſe for his preſervation.

In the ſame village, but within a lowly dwelling, lived Mr. Thomas Woodbine, who, though utterly deſtitute of the gifts of fortune, was ſtill poſſeſſed of a generous mind, and all his actions were marked with the ſtricteſt honeſty. His occupation was that of a ſhepherd; and his character, a juſt and virtuous man.

His ſon, a boy of eight years old, generally attended him when he led his fleecy care to ſlake their thirſt in the chryſtal ſtream; and when at cloſe of day he penned them in the fold, the youngſter's pipe (on which, for

for his age, he was no mean performer), ſpread its ſoft notes, and rouſed the ſleeping Echo.

Mrs. Woodbine, whoſe affectionate heart was equally divided betwixt her faithful huſband and her darling child, endeavoured by every poſſible means to aſſiſt the lawful exertions of the ſhepherd, that thereby they might be enabled to live in a decent though frugal manner. This, by a courſe of unremitting induſtry, ſhe happily accompliſhed; yet ſtill one grief lay heavy on her heart, and often bedewed her cheek with tears when nature ſmiled around her.

We have already obſerved her tenderneſs towards her boy, and from hence aroſe the ſilent ſorrow which oppreſſed her. She was conſcious of her

her inability to place her ſon at a ſchool; and her diſtreſs was often augmented by the tender and pathetic intreaties of Charles, who eagerly deſired to enjoy the bleſſings of learning with his juvenile aſſociates, and to peruſe with his neighbours thoſe inſtructive and amuſing books, which the generoſity of Mr. Loveboy ſo often diſtributed among the infant peaſantry. When ſhe reflected that poverty withheld her from gratifying ſo pleaſing and reaſonable a requeſt, her wonted contentment was apt to waver, and her poor boſom was rent with ſighs which roſe to ſuppreſs a loud complaint.

Nor was Mr. Thomas Woodbine any ſtranger to thoſe tender emotions which we obſerved to fill the breaſt of his

his affectionate wife. He wiſhed as ardently as herſelf to ſee her ſon receive the ineſtimable advantages of education; but inſtead of fooliſhly repining at the ſituation which Providence had placed him in, and which at preſent appeared as an inſurmountable obſtacle to his wiſhes, he meekly proſtrated himſelf before the Father of Mercies, and humbly implored for his offspring that invaluable jewel which his own power could not beſtow, and which his ſmall pittance could not purchaſe.

Whether his petition was heard will be ſeen hereafter.

CHAP.

CHAP. II.

A SUMMER'S MORNING; A SONG; AND A PLEASING SURPRIZE.

THE village clock had juſt ſtruck ſix, when Thomas Woodbine, attended by his ſon, aſcended the hill, on whoſe flowery ſide his flock reclined amidſt the ſultry hours of the day.

Nature was arrayed in her gayeſt robes; the fleecy clouds diſparting, fled before the blazing chariot of the ſun, whoſe beams reflected in the dimpled lake, or quivering through the ſhady bowers, awaked the feathered choriſters, and called them forth to harmony and love.

The bluſhing bloſſoms, yet white with pearly dew, diffuſed their grateful

ful fragrance round the plain, or courted the admiration of the ambulator. The warbling lark, borne on the yielding air, poured forth his muſic as he roſe towards the gates of Heaven; while o'er the enamelled meadow ſtrayed the browzing herds, and the ſuſceptible heart caught more than human rapture from the glowing ſcene.

The ſhepherd (having led his gentle lambs to crop the tender blade, or recline in ſafety beneath his watchful eye), ſeated himſelf on a ſtone which was nearly overgrown with moſs, and gazed enraptured on the beauteous proſpect which kind creation opened to his view; while Charles, at a diſtance, attuned his little pipe in ſoftened ſtrains to his own reflections,

and concluding the pleaſing ſound with a moſt enchanting cadence.

He hung the inſtrument on a neighbouring branch; and directing his eyes to the bright abode of endleſs felicity, he thus expreſſed his thoughts, to which before his ſimple muſic played:—

While Nature, dreſt in all her charms,
Chaunts forth her ſweeteſt lays;
The brighten'd ſcene my boſom warms,
And tunes my tongue to praiſe.

Tho' poor, at preſent, is my lot,
Why ſhou'd my heart deſpair?
Heav'n, from a palace, or a cot,
Alike accepts of pray'r.

Then ſure my humble thanks may riſe
To His eternal throne,
Who, from the manſion of the ſkies,
Regards the heart alone.

Accept

Accept the tribute, Lord, and grant
I may on thee depend,
To ſhield me from diſtreſſing want,
And prove Thyſelf my friend.

The ſong was no ſooner ended, than a gentleman, who had liſtened with the utmoſt attention whilſt it was ſinging, ſtepped from behind ſome honey-ſuckles which hitherto had concealed him, and taking the young ſongſter by the hand, thanked him cordially for the pleaſure which ſuch muſic had afforded him, and requeſted to be informed where Charles had read the words which he had ſo melodiouſly repeated.

The little peaſant ſtood ſilent a moment; but at length exclaimed—"Alas, ſir! I have never been bleſt "with the valuable advantages of edu-

"cation. My dear parents are in-
"deed very kind; but when they
"have provided ſufficient food to ſa-
"tisfy the demands of my hunger,
"and raiment to ſhield me from the
"inclemency of the weather, they
"have no money left to put me
"to ſchool; nor muſt I repine, ſince
"it is not in their power: yet I often
"think, if I could but attend a
"maſter a very little time, I ſhould
"be enabled, by watchfulneſs and
"aſſiduity, to improve myſelf after-
"wards."

"Pray," ſaid the gentleman, (who was no other than Mr. Loveboy), "what is your name, and who are "your parents?"

"My name," replied the youth, "is Charles Woodbine. My father

is

" is yon ſhepherd, whom your honour
" may ſee reclining upon his crook,
" and gazing upon his dog, who is
" indeed a faithful animal. My mo-
" ther is employed in waſhing at
" home."

" And where," ſaid Mr. Loveboy,
" do you reſide?"—" Our cottage,
" ſir," replied he, " is that ſmall
" one, which is nearly concealed by
" thoſe trees which grow at the bot-
" tom of the hill."

" If then," rejoined Mr. Loveboy,
" you are indeed deſtitute of learn-
" ing, how came you to the know-
" ledge of that ſong which I have ſo
" much admired?"

" Your honour," ſaid he, " is too
" good, in condeſcending to talk with
" a poor lad like me; and ſtill more

" ſo in inquiring after my ſimple
" concerns. The words which you
" ſay are honoured with your appro-
" bation, are no other than the hum-
" ble effuſions of my own heart,
" which, by often ſtudying, and re-
" peatedly ſinging, I have formed into
" that little ſong, which I uſe every
" morning as a token of praiſe to the
" Almighty; and I hope he will ac-
" cept it, though it is only the pro-
" duction of a poor child."

" I doubt it not," ſaid the gentle-
man, " and I believe he will grant you
" the requeſt of your heart."

" Indeed, ſir," ſaid Charles, " I
" am contented with my ſituation,
" and have no particular deſire for any
" thing but learning; and that I have

" already

" already told you is placed beyond " my reach."

" Repine no more," ſaid Mr. Loveboy; " your wiſhes may be ac- " compliſhed much ſooner than you " expect. Go, and tell your father " to ſeek ſome careful perſon to attend " his ſheep, for he muſt bring you to " my houſe at nine o'clock: you muſt " not make it later, for you may have " a journey to take before the even- " ing; and I ſhall rely upon your " attendance."

While Charles ſtood motionleſs with ſurprize, the gentleman wiſhed him a good morning; and going to his horſe, which was grazing at a diſtance, he leaped into the ſaddle, and was out of ſight in the ſpace of a minute.

Charles, recollecting after a little pauſe,

pauſe, that no time ſhould be loſt upon ſuch an occaſion, ran to his father with incredible ſwiftneſs, and exclaiming—"News, dear father, news!" he arrived at the ſtone whereon the ſhepherd was ſitting.

He was neither leſs ſurprized, nor leſs elated, than his ſon, when he reflected on the character and diſpoſition of the perſon, whoſe pleaſing commands he now received with ecſtaſy. He doubted not but the youth would be ſent to ſchool; yet could not comprehend what journey was intended. He left the ſheep, however, in care of a perſon who was roving over the hill, and made the beſt of his way to Mrs. Woodbine.

She no ſooner heard the charming relation, than burſting into tears of

joy, ſhe exclaimed—"My prayer is "heard, and my ſon will now, with "the bleſſing of Providence, become "a ſhining man."

She cheerfully produced her wheaten loaf, and crowned the board with ſome boiling milk for their breakfaſt; while her own heart overflowed in praiſe to her Creator; and, regardleſs of food, ſhe enjoyed a banquet, to which the glutton is a total ſtranger.

The wholeſome meal of the former, and the inexpreſſible feelings of the latter, induces us to leave them to their own enjoyments till the beginning of another chapter.

CHAP.

CHAP. III.

THE PROMISE FULFILLED; A JOURNEY; AND A BOARDING-SCHOOL.

AT a quarter before nine, Mr. Woodbine with his ſon departed from their cottage, enlivened by the moſt ſanguine expectations; for the ſhepherd's wife had, during breakfaſt, given as her opinion, that Mr. Loveboy intended to place Charles at a boarding-ſchool; and, therefore, though ſhe could not array him in any finery, ſhe made him both clean and neat, and then, with reiterated marks of affection, yielded him up to the care of the Almighty, firmly believing ſome months at leaſt would elapſe before ſhe ſhould again behold him.

Charles

Charles followed his father with a cheerful heart to the gentleman's reſidence, and quickened his pace as he drew nearer to the deſired ſpot. Upon their arrival, they were uſhered into an elegant parlour, wherein Mr. Loveboy was ſitting, peruſing a volume of poems, lately publiſhed. He laid down the book at their approach, and accoſting the peaſant with the utmoſt affability, told him, he muſt not be ſurprized if he deſired Charles to be left to his own protection; "For," ſaid he, "I have taken a particular "fancy to him; and his converſation "this morning has determined me "(ſhould it meet your approbation) to "place him at an academy, ten miles "diſtant from hence.

"His learning will there be care-

"fully

" fully attended; his morals purified;
" and his health conſidered in all his
" recreations. As to the article of
" clothes, I will myſelf provide him
" with that which is needful; and
" ſhall rely on his future conduct for a
" full reward of all my attentions be-
" ſtowed upon him."

He then gave his new favourite a letter to deliver at the ſchool; and calling a ſervant, he ordered him to prepare the horſes, and proceed according to thoſe directions which were already given.

The grateful ſhepherd, unable longer to conceal the violent emotions of his breaſt, fell on his knees, and embracing the feet of his worthy benefactor, endeavoured (though with many ſobs), to thank him for his unmerited

merited goodneſs; but Mr. Loveboy, refuſing to liſten to his own praiſe, gave him half-a-guinea, and bidding him carry the news to his wife, he politely wiſhed him a good morning, and retired.

The parting was affecting, yet pleaſing, between the old man and Charles; the former praying for bleſſings on his boy, and the latter vowing unſhaken conſtancy to the love of virtue, while he clang round the neck of his weeping parent, and fondly repeated the marks of filial attachment.

The youth at laſt pronounced an affectionate adieu; and the inhabitant of the cottage returned to the partner of his ſoul: but here it is impoſſible that language ſhould expreſs the joy,

the gratitude, and adoration to Heaven, which now employed the virtuous couple, whoſe ſon was thus unexpectedly favoured with the fulfilment of his moſt ardent deſires; we ſhall therefore leave them to their own reflections, and return to the hero of our piece.

He was now diſmiſſed by his excellent friend, and purſued his journey on horſeback, with a lighter heart than he ever had enjoyed before. The ſervant who attended him, endeavoured to amuſe his charge, by pointing out the moſt elegant ſeats, or the greateſt curioſities; and every object appeared ſo captivating to our young traveller, that he ſcarce knew which afforded him the greateſt pleaſure.

Having rode five miles, the ſervant informed

informed him he might now ſtop, and reſt himſelf awhile, till the heat of the day ſhould be abated. They accordingly diſmounted at a ſmall but neat inn, by the road ſide; and having ſeen the horſes properly attended, withdrew to a back parlour, which, beſides the convenience of a cooling ſhade, preſented them with an entire proſpect of the garden.

They here regaled themſelves with ſome home-brewed ale; and Mr. Loveboy's ſervant drawing from his pocket a ſmall bundle, produced the half of a roaſted chicken, which, with ſome bread provided by the landlord, afforded them a wholeſome and pleaſing repaſt.

Two hours paſſed away in the moſt agreeable manner, when they deemed

it time to purſue their journey: the reckoning was immediately diſcharged; and, remounting their ſteeds, they arrived in an hour at the gate of that manſion which was now to become the abode of young Woodbine for a ſeaſon.

Having rung the bell, whoſe handle was nearly covered by the bloſſoms of thoſe ſhrubs which ſurrounded it, the door was inſtantly opened by a young gentleman, to whom Mr. Loveboy's footman delivered the letter which Charles had brought, and waited in expectation of an anſwer. They had not tarried long, when Mr. Careful, the maſter, appeared; and welcoming his new ſcholar, returned Mr. Loveboy for anſwer, that he ſhould attend the orders which he had now received, with

with that degree of punctuality which, he truſted, would give the higheſt ſatisfaction.

The ſervant returned to his beneficent maſter, and Charles was left to the care of his tutor, and the congratulations of his new aſſociates; who eagerly preſſing around him, deſired to ſhew him the ſchool-room, which was handſome, ſpacious, and airy: their laws were explained, their regulations deſcribed, and their daily courſe of practice ſubmitted to his conſideration.

They next conducted him to their bed-chambers, where he was equally ſurprized and delighted with the pleaſing appearance of every article. The play-ground and gardens were the ſucceeding objects of attention; as

was alſo a large orchard, where the children were often permitted to purſue their recreations.

Having ſurveyed the numerous beauties of the premiſes, they were ſummoned to the hall by the ſupper bell, which they readily attended; and having enjoyed a comfortable meal, our hero repeated his ramble with his companions, till the aforeſaid bell invited them in to prayers. They aſſembled with cheerfulneſs on the uſual ſpot; and having adored their Preſerver for the bleſſings of the day, they retired to their needful repoſe for the night.

CHAP.

CHAP. IV.

TWO OPPOSITE CHARACTERS; AN EXCURSION; AND A MISFORTUNE.

FROM the juvenile aſſembly, of which our hero was now become a member, we ſhall ſingle out two characters, who attempted to gain his friendſhip with equal aſſiduity; and theſe may ſuffice as a general deſcription; the ſchool being pretty nearly divided between the amiable and diſagreeable perſons who were its preſent inhabitants.

Maſter William Froward was by birth a gentleman; his purſe was ſeldom low; and his perſon eminently the fineſt in the place; yet, with theſe advantages in his favour, he was

ſtill very remote from what we term an amiable youth. His paſſions were ſtrong in the extreme; and though he was often tenderly warned by his tutor to ſubdue their frequent riſings, which rendered him miſerable in himſelf, and utterly contemptible to his acquaintance, ſuch was the obſtinacy of his temper, that (diſdaining ſuch excellent advice), he reſolv'd to purſue his own courſe, whatever might be the conſequence; which, the reader will ſoon find, plunged him in diſtreſs, and overwhelmed him with grief.

We muſt now quit our obſervations on this pupil, to ſurvey the portrait of one, who (though by far his inferior in birth and circumſtances), certainly eclipſed him in the eſtimation of his maſter,

maſter, and the unprejudiced opinion of every judicious obſerver.

Joſeph Placid was the ſon of a poor but honeſt couple, who had died about two years before he was placed in the academy; but Mr. Loveboy (hearing of the diſtreſſed condition in which their child was left, and finding that a mercileſs relation intended to turn him out either to famine, or the workhouſe), with his wonted generoſity ſupplied him with requiſite apparel, and then placed him under the tuition of Mr. Careful, who received him as kindly, and treated him as tenderly, as though he had been of noble extraction; it being his favourite maxim, that "Our ſmiles were moſt needful where relentleſs fortune frowned."

In this ſituation the orphan began his courſe of learning, and by unwearied application, ſoon obtained that applauſe which was readily beſtowed on the induſtrious yet unaſſuming candidate.

Thus he proceeded, till his abilities began to ſhine with a ſuperior luſtre among his companions, and he was now equal to the performance of any exerciſe which was preſcribed for Maſter Froward.

This was an attainment which the haughty ſpirit of that gentleman could by no means brook; he therefore conſtantly endeavoured, by every method, to involve poor Joſeph in difficulties, or engage him in quarrels.

All his ſchemes, however, proved abortive; for the object of his hatred never

never undertook any thing which had the leaſt tendency to miſchief; and as to thoſe brawls, which ſo often diſturb the mind of youth, he obſerved they were degrading in themſelves, and far beneath any child that was born in a chriſtian land, or received any ſhare of a polite education. In ſhort, as Froward was loud, wilful, and aſſuming conſequence upon every occaſion, Placid was mild, humble, and inoffenſive: yet let not my readers from hence infer, that he had any tinge of the coward in his diſpoſition, or that he was incapable of defending or confuting an argument; but we muſt make a diſtinction between an argument and a quarrel; the former of which is often uſeful, the latter always ſenſeleſs and diſguſting. And here let

let it be obſerved, "The youth of ſpirit will exert himſelf in diſpute only, when morality, or injured innocence, demands it of him: neither then will he wage unequal war with ſome contemptible being who is below him; but ſtanding ſecure on the foundation of his own virtue, will boldly accuſe the crimes of his equals or ſuperiors, and ſtrike the ſhaft of conviction to their (hitherto unenlightened) breaſts."

Theſe characters, we have already obſerved, endeavoured to obtain the confidence of young Woodbine; but as Maſter Froward could not conceal his ſour diſpoſition, even upon this occaſion, he told Placid, in a ſurly manner, to walk about his buſineſs, for he wanted none of his company, neither

neither did the new ſcholar, he was well aſſured.

To this rough addreſs Joſeph replied, that he thought himſelf equally at liberty with any other perſon, either to retire, or attend upon their new aſſociate; and if Maſter Charles (added he) is not diſpleaſed with my company, I ſhall be happy to take a walk with him till the cloſe of the evening. Froward turned himſelf upon his heel, and muttered a threat as he withdrew: but at this inſtant Mr. Careful entered the play-ground, and thus addreſſed his collected charge:—

"The ſerenity of the weather, and "the fragrance of the new-mown "hay, invite you, my children, to "taſte thoſe bleſſings which boun-"teous Nature offers to your accept-

" ance. To this invitation, I now " add my permiſſion for you to " ſtroll over the neighbouring mea- " dows for the ſpace of an hour; but " remember not to exceed that time; " neither run into danger, nor become " the perpetrators of any evil action."

With theſe words he retired, and left the pupils to purſue their walk. After a variety of incidents, too trivial to relate, a bird's neſt was diſcovered upon the uppermoſt branch of an old tree, to which Maſter Froward declared he would aſcend, and ſeize upon it as his legal property, himſelf being the ſenior of the company.

From this reſolution Placid endeavoured to divert him, by repreſenting it as an arbitrary act of cruelty, to deprive a poor defenceleſs mother of her

her little family; but as this obſervation was merely the object of his contemptuous ridicule, Woodbine hoped to diſſuade him from this fooliſh attempt, by repreſenting the danger which might probably attend the climbing a tree which was evidently going to decay. To theſe friendly admonitions Froward replied, with a diſdainful countenance, that he was neither ſuch a fool nor coward as ſome folks; and poſitively affirmed, he both muſt, and would, obtain the neſt.

He immediately aſcended to the reſidence of the feathered ſongſter; but juſt as he extended his hand to graſp its moſſy bed, his foot being placed upon an unſound branch, it inſtantly gave way, and down he fell

headlong, to the terror of each beholder.

As he did not appear to breathe, and the blood ran plentifully from his head and noſtrils, the whole train of boys (Placid and Woodbine excepted), ran back to the ſchool in the utmoſt conſternation, exclaiming vehemently, "He's killed! He's killed! He's killed!"

CHAP. V.

THE RETURN; REPENTANCE; AND SALUTARY COUNSEL.

MR. Careful was opening the door which led to the lawn, when Placid and Woodbine appeared ſupporting the bleeding body of the adventurous youth, which ſeemed to require the utmoſt exertion of their ſtrength to convey it to the houſe.

He inſtantly ran to their aſſiſtance; and taking the unfortunate ſcholar in his arms, enquired by what means the accident was received; and diſpatched a ſervant to procure a ſurgeon from the adjacent town. A gentleman was accordingly brought, whoſe abilities

were juſtly applauded, and whoſe humanity was extenſively experienced.

He no ſooner examined his young patient, (who was now laid upon his bed,) than he pronounced the wound of ſmall conſequence; and obſerved, that he was merely faint from loſs of blood.

Some remedies having been applied, and a cordial poured into the lips of the unhappy ſufferer, he opened his eyes, and began to regain the uſe of his ſenſes.

His attention was now engaged by his two companions, who were hanging over him with the tendereſt concern, and weeping plentifully at the idea of his ſufferings.

His heart was viſibly affected by their diſtreſs; and it ſeems that repentance

pentance at laſt found a ſeat within his boſom; for he pathetically exclaimed—" O my dear friends! Is it " poſſible you can thus ſorrow for one " who ſcorned your advice, and " treated you with diſdain?

" Had I liſtened to your perſua- " ſions, I might now have been in " health, and completely happy; but " I was too conceited to yield to your " opinions, and now endure my pre- " ſent agony, as a juſt reward of my " pride and folly.——O that I had " never attempted to rob the harm- " leſs bird of its young, nor ever " climbed that unfortunate tree!

" Alas! my wiſhes are formed too " late; and that miſery is now inflict- " ed, which then I might ſo eaſily " have eſcaped.

" My

"My poor head is quite diſtracted, "ſo that I ſcarcely know one ſentence "which I utter; but if Heaven "ſhould pleaſe to reſtore me again, "indeed, indeed, my excellent com-"panions, I will love you both with "the moſt ardent affection, and ſtrive "to win the friendſhip of the virtu-"ous, and thoſe alone."

To theſe expreſſions they returned him the moſt ſoothing anſwers; and kindly aſſured him of their forgiveneſs for his paſt errors, and their unremitting care of, and wiſhes for, his welfare in future.

The ſurgeon then informed them it would be proper to retire, that his patient might endeavour to obtain ſome repoſe.

The hint was immediately taken; and

and they all were quitting the room, when Mr. Careful took one more ſurvey of the invalid, and thus delivered his thoughts before he left him:—

"I am extremely ſorry, Maſter "Froward, for the misfortune which "has now confined you to your cham- "ber; yet I ſincerely hope it will, in "the end, prove of the moſt eſſential "ſervice; as it muſt ſhew you the "indiſcretion and obſtinacy of which "you have proved yourſelf guilty, by "ruſhing forwards in miſchief, when "kindly perſuaded to the contrary. "Indeed, the fact you was engaged to "perform, was one of the cruelleſt "(if not a ſinful) kind: for if you "juſtly conſider what trouble a poor "little bird muſt take before its neſt "can be completed, the materials of

"which

" which are painfully collected by a " ſingle ſtick or feather at a time; " how carefully ſhe lines it for the " warmth of her helpleſs little ones; " and how attentively ſhe regards " their ſafety till they are enabled to " ſhift for themſelves: when you " reflect ſeriouſly upon theſe things, " I aſk you what you ſuppoſe ſhe muſt " feel, when returning with her load " of proviſion from the adjacent field " or village, ſhe finds the ſhady buſh, " or the obſcure branch of her favour- " ite tree, deſpoiled of her neſt and " young, by the rude hand of ſome " unfeeling boy, who, unmov'd by " her lamentations, exults with rap- " ture over his prize?

" O Maſter Froward, let this ob- " ſervation ſink deeply in your mind,

" and

" and let your preſent affliction prove
" a conſtant warning to withhold your
" hand, if ever you ſhould be tempt-
" ed to commit ſo barbarous an act
" again."

" Indeed, Sir, I never will," exclaimed the weeping youth; " my
" heart is too much affected at the idea
" of their ſufferings: and ſhould I
" ever trouble myſelf on ſuch an ac-
" count again, it ſhall be in defence
" of thoſe harmleſs creatures, whom
" I can no more endure to ſee in-
" jured."

" I hope you are in earneſt," rejoined his preceptor, " and I ſhall
" now leave you to your repoſe; but
" remember (before you cloſe your
" eyes in ſleep) to implore the par-
" don of your Maker for your folly;

" and

" and while you pray for the reſto-
" ration of your health, offer a pe-
" tition for the ſincerity of your re-
" pentance."

Mr. Careful, with the ſurgeon, now withdrew, and left the unfortunate rambler to his own reflections.

CHAP. VI.

A RECOVERY; A RAMBLE; AND AN ACT OF CHARITY.

THE ſun had juſt riſen over the adjacent hills, and began to dart his invigorating beams through the curtains of Maſter Froward's chamber, when Woodbine and Placid approached his bed, and enquired with the tendereſt anxiety concerning his repoſe. He informed them he had enjoyed an uninterrupted ſlumber, and found himſelf ſo far recovered, that (if his maſter would permit) he ſhould wiſh to riſe and take a little walk in the afternoon, as he thought the air might prove beneficial to him. Placid inſtantly ran to inform the tutor reſpecting this de-

ſire, and ſpeedily returned with permiſſion for the invalid to come from his room, provided the exertion ſhould not appear to fatigue him.

His friends now aſſiſted him to dreſs, and carefully conducted him to a little parlour, which Mr. Careful appropriated to the purpoſes of a ſtudy.

It was ſituated at the back of the houſe, commanding the entire proſpect of a beautiful garden. Its windows were ſurrounded with cluſters of honey-ſuckles entwined amidſt the ſpreading jeſſamine, and the gay aſſemblage of flowers which enamelled the borders regaled the ſenſe, and charmed the eye of each beholder. Within the room appeared a collection of the moſt valuable and well-choſen books, which, with a microſcope, globes,

globes, and harpſichord, offered alternate amuſement and inſtruction to every welcome gueſt. In this ſweet retirement Maſter Froward was amuſed by his kind companion Placid (who having received ſome muſical leſſons from Mr. Careful) undertook to divert him till breakfaſt, with playing on the inſtrument before mentioned.

After performing ſeveral pieces to the ſatisfaction of his juvenile friends, he began to finger an air, which appeared adapted to one of Woodbine's poetical compoſitions, who requeſting permiſſion to accompany the muſic, ſang the following lines:

Sequeſter'd from noiſe, in the humble retreat,
Where ſhepherds recline on the ground,
The children of virtue felicity greet,
And paradiſe bloſſoms around.

No ſcenes of affliction, no terrible news,
The ſweets of contentment remove;
But zephyrs ambroſial their odours diffuſe,
While muſic enlivens the grove.

Around their kind maſter, the wandering flock
Wind careleſsly over the hill,
Or follow the kids to the clift of the rock,
And drink from the murmuring rill.

Whilſt bleſt in each other, their owners enjoy
Each pleaſure which nature beſtows,
In praiſe to their Maker the day they employ,
And thankfully ſink to repoſe.

Maſter Froward was returning his warmeſt thanks to Charles for his ſong, when a ſervant entered the room with the tea equipage; as Mr. Careful had kindly permitted the invalid and his aſſociates to breakfaſt at his own table.

The

The refreſhment concluded, Woodbine and Placid retired to their ſtudies while Froward was left to employ his time as he thought proper; which he accordingly devoted to reading and ſalutary reflections.

The dinner-bell was hailed as uſual with a general ſmile, and its proviſion crowned with decency and thankfulneſs. The ſcholaſtic hours again rolled ſweetly on; and ſober Evening once more cheared the plain with her refreſhing breezes, when Placid reminded his preceptor of the wiſh expreſſed by the young adventurer in the morning.

They accordingly ſtrolled in the adjoining meadows by their maſter's permiſſion, and Froward was alternately ſupported by the ready arms of his

companions. The ſky was ſerenely beautiful; the verdant lawn, delightfully overſpread with the beauteous cowſlip and unaſſuming daiſy, refreſhed the wandering eye, while the ſoft melody of the birds, in the thick foliage of the buſhes, gave a higher reliſh to the enjoyment of the rural ſcene.

They had not proceeded above half a mile, when aſcending a gate which led to a neighbouring field, they beheld (in a dry ditch overgrown with graſs) an object, which inſtantly fixed their hitherto roving attention.

An aged man, whoſe whitened locks proclaimed his venerable age, lay reclined upon his elbow, and gazing wiſtfully around him, whilſt the guſhing tears bedewed his furrowed cheek,

and

and deſcended in a copious ſhower on his ancient breaſt.

Raiſing himſelf gently from this poſition, he threw himſelf on his knees, and lifting his trembling hands to heaven, exclaimed — "Eternal "Source of light and immortality, who "knoweſt my ſituation, pity and re- "lieve the ſorrows of a poor old man, "or at leaſt receive this wounded ſpirit "to thyſelf, and let the earth afford a "peaceful ſpot to the cold remains "of my unfortunate frame."

His heart ſeemed too full to proceed, and he ſunk overwhelmed with ſorrow on the bank.

The obſerving ſcholars immediately went towards him; and Woodbine, (wiping from his face the drops of tenderneſs which the ſtranger's ejacula-

tion had drawn forth) thus addreſſed him—

" Pardon, Sir, the freedom of my-
" ſelf and companions, who have thus
" preſumed to approach you, and who
" cannot reſiſt the impulſe of our mu-
" tual deſire to hear the cauſe of your
" pathetic lamentations."

" Alas! my good gentlemen," rejoined the ſon of affliction, " I am very
" faint, nor do I know whether I have
" ſtrength to ſatisfy your curioſity, for
" I have not taſted food ſince yeſter-
" day morning."

Placid, without making any reply, inſtantly drew from his pocket a white handkerchief, containing a little loaf and two prints of butter, with which his miſtreſs had preſented him in the afternoon, that he might treat his

companions with an unexpected refreſhment before their return.

He ſpread the handkerchief carefully on the graſs, and laying out his little ſtock of proviſions in the beſt order, earneſtly intreated the ſtranger to accept a trifle, which (though intended for his friends amuſement) might, in ſome degree, be uſeful to his neceſſity.

"Father of love, I thank thee!" cried the ancient mourner; "I find "thou haſt not yet forgotten me." Then turning his eyes on the juvenile donor —"May Heaven reward thee, gener- "ous boy," ſaid he, "and ſmile on "all thy future actions!"

The ſcene became too affecting, and the youths withdrew, while the old gentleman

gentleman endeavoured to ſatisfy the repeated calls of hunger.

At this inſtant Lucy, the milk-maid, came tripping along with her pails. Woodbine immediately informed her of his adventure, and earneſtly requeſted a cup of milk for the ſtranger; ſhe accordingly filled a tin meaſure for that purpoſe, and away he ran to the thankful man, whoſe tears alone proclaimed his gratitude.

Lucy proceeded homewards; and the boys ſurrounding the object of their charity, again requeſted the recital, which our readers may find in the following chapter.

CHAP.

CHAP. VII.

THE STRANGER'S HISTORY; AND THE YOUTH'S RETURN.

In my early days I enjoyed the ſmiles of fortune, and my ſituation was comfortable till about ten years ago, when I was involved in miſery by the death of an affectionate brother, who had hitherto liberally ſupported and aſſiſted all my undertakings.

He was no ſooner conveyed to the ſilent tomb, than I left the country with a diſtracted mind, and went on board a veſſel which was bound for the Indies. We ſailed with a proſperous gale for ſome time; but at length a fatal ſtorm aroſe, by which the ſhip was beaten ſo violently, that every

every one found it would be impoſſible to ſave her.

The only reflection which now engroſſed our attention, was that of providing for our own ſafety, and on this ſubject we racked our thoughts in vain, ſince no method appeared by which we might hope for deliverance. At length the dreaded moment arrived, when the veſſel ſtruck upon a rock, and fell to pieces.

The piercing ſcreams of the wretched ſufferers were now heard above the dire confuſion of the elements, though the ſky was ſhaken by the moſt tremendous peals of thunder, and the vivid ſheets of lightning were awful beyond deſcription.

I now fell with my comrades into the boſom of the roaring ocean, and after

after reſiſting the fury of the waves for ſome time, I imagine that I fainted, for I remember no more till I found myſelf on a rock, which overlooked a ſmall but beautiful iſland.

Here I remained for ſix months, ſubſiſting on the roots and fruits of the field, and occaſionally taking a few birds by traps, which I prepared for them. At length, however, Providence directed a ſhip to paſs the place of my ſolitary abode, and I obtained a paſſage to England. But, O my dear gentlemen! as the ſhipwreck had totally ruined me, by burying all my property in the depths of the ſea, my return was of little uſe to me.

Alas! dear Sirs, how ſhall I expreſs what I felt, when, on my return to the place of my nativity, I found my only re-

lation was dead, and my countrymen forgetful and eſtranged from me.

No pitying friend vouchſafed a tender word; no charitable neighbour offered me his aſſiſtance; but, finding me poor, they all withdrew their notice, and left me to the horrors of the blackeſt deſpair.

I left the ſcenes of former pleaſures with a burſting heart, and was driven to that extremity, through hunger, age, and infirmity, that I was obliged to implore compaſſion from the paſſing traveller, or ſolicit an alms at the abode of luxury, from whence I ſeldom received any thing but the moſt unfeeling reproaches. Yeſterday proving entirely unſucceſsful, I began to yield myſelf a prey to complete deſpondency; and from the clamours of a diſregarded

regarded hunger, and the overwhelming anguiſh of my ſoul, aroſe the exclamation which lately arreſted your attention, and drew from your eyes the charming tear of ſenſibility.

So complete an outcaſt as myſelf can offer no return of gratitude worthy your acceptance; yet ſhall a prayer for your ceaſeleſs proſperity aſcend to heaven each day, that Providence ſhall yet allot to an unhappy man, whoſe fainting heart revived beneath the influence of your timely generoſity.

The mendicant bowed humbly at this cloſe of his narration, and putting on his hat, which hitherto he had held in his hand, purſued his journey, while his youthful auditors reflected with aſtoniſhment on his undeſerved afflictions.

The day, however, beginning to decline, they returned to the ſchool, making ſuitable remarks on the occurrences of the evening; and to apologize for their delay, they related their little adventure to the tutor, from whom they received the warmeſt applauſe.

They now adjourned to the ſchool-room, there to partake of thoſe wholeſome refreſhments which crowned the table; after which they retired to repoſe, with the matchleſs pleaſure of reflecting on thoſe actions which appeared conſiſtent with the dictates of virtue, and well pleaſing to their adorable Creator.

CHAP.

CHAP. VIII.

THE JUBILEE.

THREE months had now paſſed in a conſtant flow of pleaſure, ſince the laſt adventure recited in the foregoing chapter, when Mr. Careful informed his pupils that the next day would bring a return of the jubilee; a time which was eagerly expected by the juniors, and enjoyed with the ſincereſt delight by the whole ſchool. To deſcribe this ſcene of feſtivity, with the cuſtoms therein obſerved, is our preſent intention, and to which we now ſolicit the attention of our readers.

This feſtival was firſt inſtituted by Mr. Loveboy, as a day of univerſal

relaxation and hilarity to thoſe youths who received their learning from his bounty.

Mr. Careful, who, as we have already obſerved, was ever ſtudious to promote the ſatisfaction of his ſcholars, kindly extended the privilege of this holiday to all who were placed beneath his care; and thus four times in a year the manſions of literature reſounded with harmleſs mirth and joyous exclamations.

Our young hero was retiring with his companions to their chamber, when they received the welcome news, and each reclined on his pillow in expectation of the riſing ſun.

At length the morning broke, and ſhed its radiant glories over the village, when Placid and Woodbine were

aroufed by the ſound of two clarinets, which, accompanied by a French horn, poured forth the ſweeteſt ſounds of harmony.

They inſtantly quitted their bed, and began to dreſs, when a muſical voice, accompanied by the inſtruments, addreſſed them in the following manner:—

By Phœbus invited, from ſlumber ariſe,
Come forth at the ſound of the horn;
His beams are diffus'd thro' the opening ſkies,
And ſhine on the jubilee morn.

Come, dance to the muſic, come frolic and play,
No ſtudy your thoughts ſhall enchain;
But pleaſure ſhall ſmile thro' the courſe of the day,
As you joyfully bound o'er the plain.

The ſong ſhall be heard, and the tale ſhall be told,
Till laughing you roll on the ground;
Each moment freſh ſcenes of delight ſhall unfold,
And innocent wit ſhall abound.

Then

Then riſe at the ſummons, and quickly attend
The voice of your maſter ſo kind;
Who, joining the wiſh of his honoured friend,
Proclaims a releaſe to the mind.

The ſong being concluded, our young friends (having firſt performed their morning devotion) ran to the hall, where they found the family aſſembling as ſpeedily as poſſible. The number being perfected, they ſauntered out to the adjoining lawn, where a ſpacious tent was fixed for their accommodation, and a plentiful breakfaſt of tea and rolls provided, of which they partook with the greateſt flow of ſpirits; while the muſicians retired to the bank of an adjacent river, and from thence entertained them with ſeveral pieces, well calculated to improve the hilarity of the preſent moment.

Breakfaſt

Breakfaſt concluded, the gentlemen began to diſperſe in little parties of amuſement, ſome chuſing one ſpecies of diverſion, and others preferring another; till the clock ſtruck ten; when they again aſſembled, to prepare for a ramble through the adjoining villages.

Accordingly, having received their needful inſtructions from the tutor, they began their proceſſion in the following manner—

Two clarinets; two ſenior pupils, ſupporting large colours, beautifully adorned with emblematic figures; twelve boys walking in pairs; a pair of globes, ſupported by the ſeniors of a different claſs, and followed by twelve ſcholars, and two youths ſupporting blue flags embroidered with ſilver, with the

the twelve remaining children, completed the ſchool; Mr. Careful, with a neighbouring gentleman; a flute and French horn; and, to cloſe the whole, a ſervant ſupporting a large flag bearing the title of the academy.

The dreſſes of the boys were ſimply elegant in themſelves, to which were added a light blue ſaſh and ribon in the hat, inſcribed with golden letters, according to the ſtation they held in the ſchool; and from the breaſts of the foremoſt were ſuſpended beautiful ſilver medals, given by Mr. Loveboy as a reward of merit on a particular occaſion.

In this order they paſſed through the rural abodes of the villagers, who welcomed them with the loudeſt acclamations; and this applauſe they received

ceived till they returned to the hoſpitable ſeat of the academy, where they again amuſed themſelves, according to their ſeveral fancies, till the bell ſummoned them to dinner, at which good ſenſe preſided, and the bleſſings of Providence were gratefully received.

The remainder of the day was devoted to ſinging, dancing, and rejoicing, and the evening was concluded with the illumination of the gardens, and a brilliant diſplay of fire-works.

Thus ended the jubilee, to the honour of its founder, and the inexpreſſible ſatisfaction of the pupils, who retired tranſported with the pleaſures of the day.

CHAP.

CHAP. IX.

A VISITOR; A LETTER; AND REMOVAL.

THE cloth was juſt ſpread for breakfaſt, at which the delighted youths were chearfully aſſembling, when a horſeman came to the door, and diſmounting, rang the bell.

A general ſurprize immediately took place reſpecting the viſitor, as who it could be, to whom he came, &c. but every doubt was eaſily reſolved, when, on his entering the room, he informed the boys that he wiſhed to ſpeak with their preceptor.

Mr. Careful immediately attended the ſummons, and requeſted the ſtranger to reveal his buſineſs, as he had not the

the honour to be acquainted with him, neither could he yet tell to what he muſt aſcribe the favour of ſo early a viſit.

The traveller replied, "I am an intimate friend of Mr. Loveboy, who, "I believe, has ſome connections with "this ſeminary, and by his requeſt I "have brought you a letter reſpecting "one of the pupils.

"To fulfil his deſire, I diſturbed "you at ſo early an hour, but I preſume the occaſion will offer a ſufficient apology."

It was impoſſible to let the friend of Mr. Loveboy remain ſtanding. Several boys immediately ran for a chair, and nearly overthrew each other in their trials to obtain the honour of accommodating the ſtranger. Such love and unfeigned veneration was paid

by the ſcholars to the name of their affectionate patron.

The gentleman having received the uſual compliments, and being ſeated in his chair, waited in ſilence an anſwer to the letter which occaſioned his arrival.

Mr. Careful, after peruſing the contents himſelf, demanded attention from the ſchool, while he read as follows:

DEAR SIR,

I hope on the return of my friend, to hear an agreeable character of the little folks entruſted to your care, which I flatter myſelf they will labour to obtain. Your laſt letter having deſcribed the improvements of Charles Woodbine ſo much to my ſatisfaction, I muſt requeſt you to ſend him to my houſe

houſe in the courſe of the day, as I believe I ſhall now be able to perform an eſſential act of friendſhip towards him, and (provided he continues ſteady and attentive) he may probably have cauſe to bleſs the day when his rural ſong awakened my attention, and biaſſed my inclinations in his favour.

I remain, dear Sir,

Your ſincere friend,

T. LOVEBOY.

It is impoſſible to deſcribe the ſenſations of the little auditors on hearing the contents of this letter.

Woodbine was ſo truly beloved by every boy in the ſchool, that every one was ready to burſt into tears at the idea of loſing him, nor was he leſs affected himſelf; but, recollecting the

obligations which he lay under to Mr. Loveboy, he reſtrained the trembling drop of ſorrow, and politely aſſured his tutor that he would prepare for his removal whenever he was pleaſed to command him.

The ſtranger was now preſſed to partake of the breakfaſt, but he excuſed himſelf, by obſerving, he had farther to go, and muſt reach the place of his deſtination by a particular hour.

Having, therefore, received the warmeſt wiſhes that his journey might prove an agreeable one, he remounted his horſe and was out of ſight in a minute.

Mr. Careful withdrew to his ſtudy, and breakfaſt was ſerved up to the ſcholars, but their appetite was conſiderably

ſiderably damped by the melancholy information which they had juſt received; inſtead therefore of being eagerly attentive to their morning allowance, they were all buſied in loading Charles with careſſes, and inventing little marks of friendſhip, by which they might be remembered by him when he was abſent.

The hours of ſtudy returned, which all attended except Placid, who was permitted to attend his friend, and aſſiſt him in packing up thoſe articles which were to be removed.

This taſk was performed with many ſighs and tears on the part of Placid, whoſe little heart was nearly broken by the exceſs of his affliction.

Charles, whoſe tender nature could not bear to ſee the diſtreſs of his

friend, took him tenderly by the hand and begged him to ſoothe a ſorrow which muſt prove unavailing, and rather truſt in Heaven for the arrival of that day when they might meet (as he hoped would be the caſe) without the neceſſity of parting more.

At length the dreaded moment came wherein our hero was obliged to bid adieu to the delightful pleaſures of the ſeat of literature, and the more valuable company of his affectionate companions.

A ſervant waited at the door with horſes to convey him from this little paradiſe; and though his boſom was rent with the deepeſt ſorrow at the thoughts of his removal, he heſitated not a moment to perform the wiſh of his generous benefactor; wiping the

tear

tear which guſhed unbidden from his eye, he entered the parlour to receive a kind farewell from his maſter and miſtreſs, which was given in the tendereſt manner, intermixed with the moſt ſolemn benedictions; while his aſſociates clung round his neck with inexpreſſible fondneſs, or graſped his hand with the ardour of youthful enthuſiaſm. Completely overcome with the moving ſcene, he exclaimed aloud "—May Heaven reward and bleſs you "all;" then bowing reſpectfully to his tutor and Mrs. Careful, he added —"Words are too poor to expreſs "thoſe grateful ſentiments which "your umerited attentions have in- "delibly impreſſed on my heart, but "an all gracious Providence, I truſt, "will crown you with abundant feli-

"city,

" city, and if the petitions of ſuch a " youth may hope for effect, mine " ſhall be offered as a daily ſacrifice " on your account." He left the room with flowing eyes, and vaulting into the ſaddle, waved his handkerchief and departed.

CHAP. X.

THE PROPOSAL; GRATITUDE; AND A SCENE OF AFFECTION.

THE ſervant on his arrival at Mr. Loveboy's, went immediately to inform that gentleman that his young viſitor was arrived. He accordingly expreſſed himſelf highly ſatisfied with the expedition uſed at his requeſt, and deſired that Charles might be introduced.

He was accordingly conducted to the preſence of his benefactor, whom he found ſeated in a beautiful alcove at the upper end of the garden.

After the uſual compliments preliminary to converſation, Woodbine reſpectfully

ſpectfully offered his warmeſt tribute of thankfulneſs for thoſe invaluable bleſſings which he had already received; and then waited in ſilence for the occaſion of his removal, which, after various queſtions reſpecting the academy, his worthy patron thus explained.

"I have endeavoured hitherto to "fulfil your wiſh of learning ſuch "things as were ſuitable to your years "and underſtanding, but as I have "now an opportunity of putting you "forward in a way, which (with the "bleſſing of Providence) may raiſe "you to a more exalted ſituation than "you had ever reaſon to expect, I "think it a duty incumbent on me, "to make you a propoſal, which (if "accepted) I hope will prove of eſ-

"ſential

" ſential benefit to you, and yield
" myſelf the higheſt ſatisfaction.

" An acquaintance of mine, who
" intends making a voyage to the
" Weſt Indies, wiſhes to be accom-
" panied by a youth of genteel addreſs
" and good education, whoſe ſole
" employ will be reading to him in
" his leiſure hours, or keeping an ac-
" count of his little expences, with
" noting down ſuch remarks as may
" naturally ariſe from particular cir-
" cumſtances at various places. For
" this purpoſe I have ſelected you as
" a ſuitable perſon from the academy,
" and doubt not (provided you em-
" brace the offer) but you will meet
" his warmeſt approbation.

" I obſerved, " it might prove be-
" neficial to you:" my reaſons for

" that

" that aſſertion, are founded on the " following cauſes—

" In the firſt place, he is extremely " fond of children, though not bleſt " with any of his own; and, ſecondly, " I am well aſſured (as he has no re- " lation living) the bulk of his for- " tune will be given to that character " whom he finds the moſt deſerving.

" With this propoſal, retire to your " parents, inform them clearly of the " whole deſign, and if it proves agree- " able to their inclinations and your " own, let me ſee you early in the " morning, that our plan may be re- " duced to execution."

At the concluſion of this ſentence, Mr. Loveboy walked into the houſe, and Charles politely took his leave, and retired to the cottage of his humble anceſtors.

His

His heart was nearly overwhelmed with gratitude, when reflecting upon this propoſal, he found it not merely pleaſing, but truly valuable: his thirſt of farther knowledge might now be amply gratified, and himſelf enabled, through diſcretionary conduct, to ſave ſome trifle for his poor relations.

His generous breaſt caught fire at the idea: his hopes expanded; his proſpects became more extenſive, as he reflected on the probable diſpoſition of the character to whom he was recommended: he might love him; he might from his ſtores of wealth liberally reward him.

"Should that," cried he, "ever "prove the caſe, I'll enlarge my fa-"ther's fold; I'll add the adjoining

" field to his cottage; extend his " little garden; and raiſe him to the " ſummit of felicity."

As he finiſhed this exclamation, he found himſelf at his beloved home, and peeping through the caſement, beheld the virtuous pair leaning over their wholeſome repaſt of bread and milk, which crowned the pleaſures of the day.

He lifted the latch with caution, and entered unperceived, as his mother ſaid, " What pleaſure ſhould I " feel, was my beloved Charles but " preſent now: I know he is better " ſituated; encompaſſed with nume- " rous bleſſings; and treated with " the moſt affectionate kindneſs; for " ſuch is the character of his maſter " through all the country: yet might

" I now

" I now behold him, pour my fond
" bleſſings on his head, and claſp him
" to my boſom, I ſhould be bleſt
" indeed."

" Your wiſhes," rejoined her huſ-
band, " are but the copy of my own;
" for though I know, and rejoice in,
" his preſent felicity, and daily adore
" that beneficent Providence, which
" hath fulfilled our earneſt deſires by
" leading him to the flowery paths of
" ſcience, and placing him beneath
" the patronage of ſo excellent a
" man, yet I confeſs my heart ex-
" pands with more than uſual de-
" light, on the mere expectation of
" beholding him again."

" Heaven grant him ſafely to re-
" turn," ſaid Mrs. Woodbine,
" crowned with honour, and worthy

" the attention of our valuable friend:
" but of that I cannot doubt; his
" heart is too upright, ſincere, and
" dutiful, ever to permit him to
" ſwerve from the paths of morality,
" or ſtain his character by folly or
" inattention."

Turning her head as ſhe ſpoke, ſhe beheld her darling liſtening attentively to her diſcourſe.

" Defend me," ſhe exclaimed, " it is himſelf!" and flew impatient to his arms, while he returned her warm embrace with ſtreaming eyes, and a throbbing breaſt.

Mr. Woodbine, amazed at the ſudden tranſport of his wife, looked round for the occaſion thereof, and beheld the object of their mutual care.

Starting

Starting from his chair, he overturned the porringers, and throwing his ſpoon to the end of the room, fell on his knees, and fervently adored his Creator for the ſafety of his child. He then united his embraces with thoſe of the affectionate mother; and drawing him to the table, loaded him with benedictions.

A number of queſtions were now formed and anſwered with avidity; and the cottagers were completely delighted with the deſcription of the ſchool, the character of the pupils, and the recital of the jubilee, with all other matters of importance already peruſed by the reader. But when the propoſal was explained, the grateful couple could not refrain from tears, but ſobbed audibly as they poured

forth bleſſings on the name of Mr. Loveboy; and fervently implored of Heaven a continuation of its bleſſings on their offspring.

The ſhepherd's wife now repleniſhed the board with ſome freſh milk, and a wheaten cake, to grace her ſon's return; the porringers were replaced, the ſpoon wiped carefully, and the whole œconomy of the ſupper reſtored.

To the enjoyment of themſelves and their ſimple meal we ſhall leave them for the preſent, and give our readers breath till the following chapter.

CHAP. XI.

THE ANSWER; A PRESENT; AND A PROMISE.

THE ſoaring lark had expanded his wings, and began his thrilling addreſs to the morning, when Charles Woodbine deſcended the ſtairs of his father's cottage, and prepared to attend the commands of his benefactor.

The ſun ſhone with unuſual ſplendour upon the garden, which ſtill glittered with the dews of Heaven, and the opening flowers perfumed the air with the moſt reviving odours; whilſt the fleecy tenants of the plain began to aſcend the eminence on which they daily reclined beneath their attentive ſhepherd's care.

Charles

Charles was enraptured with the pleaſing view, and piouſly preſented his praiſe to the Almighty for the wonderous bleſſings which His All Bounteous Hand had ſo profuſely ſcattered over the country.

Accompanied by his beloved parent, and thus mentally employed, he purſued the path which led to the reſidence of Mr. Loveboy, and arrived at the gate juſt as that gentleman entered the parlour.

With the utmoſt familiarity he accoſted his ruſtic viſitors, and thanked them in the moſt obliging terms for their early attendance in compliance with his requeſt. He then diſcourſed awhile on the ſerenity of the weather, the produce of the land, &c.; and finally introduced the ſubject of greateſt

eſt importance, by aſking our adventurer, if he had well digeſted the late propoſal, and whether he could now give a final anſwer?

To which the youth with equal modeſty and politeneſs anſwered:—

" Indebted as I am, Sir, to your " generoſity, it would (in my opi- " nion) be an ill return, was I to ſcru- " ple obedience to *any* command you " might be pleaſed to lay upon me: " but as, with your accuſtomed good- " neſs, you have propoſed a thing the " moſt pleaſing in itſelf, and, doubt- " leſs, tending to my future welfare, " I conſider myſelf in duty bound to " return you my warmeſt thanks for " ſuch an unmerited favour, and " humbly accept your propoſal with " a degree of gratitude which I be-

" lieve

" lieve my tongue will never be able
" to expreſs."

" Your ſentiments," replied Mr. Loveboy, " are worthy of my favour;
" and I truſt, in Heaven, you will
" yet become a ſhining character.
" But what ſay your friends to our
" ſcheme? Are you certain your fa-
" ther is willing you ſhould embark
" in the cauſe? And are you tho-
" roughly convinced that your mo-
" ther's feelings will not be wounded
" by your ſeparation? though I hope
" it will prove but of ſhort dura-
" tion."

" My mother," ſaid Charles, " has
" nothing ſo much at heart as the
" welfare of her child; and if you
" had ſeen the emotions which joy
" and gratitude produced in her
" mind

" mind on my repeating your kind " intention to her, you would have " been aſſured that ſhe embraced it with " the utmoſt eagerneſs. My father, " as being preſent, can doubtleſs an- " ſwer beſt for himſelf."

" I am indeed unable," ſaid the honeſt man, " to expreſs myſelf as I " could wiſh before ſuch a gentle- " man; but I hope your honour will " believe me when I ſay, that your " propoſal has given me the ſincereſt " pleaſure which I ever experienced; " and I truſt in the unfailing Provi- " dence of Heaven, to reward you " for being ſo extremely kind to my " poor boy."

A ſmile of benevolence illumined the features of their worthy friend, on the receipt of theſe declarations; and

and riſing from his chair, he informed Charles, that he had a ſmall preſent for him, which he expected ſhould be preſerved as a mark of his friendſhip, and a pledge of his further intentions.

With theſe words he drew from his pocket a beautiful ſilver watch, ſuſpended by an elegant chain, and adorned with two cornelian ſeals, ſet in gold, and enriched with exquiſite engravings.

It is not eaſy to deſcribe the ſenſations of our hero, or his virtuous parent, at the ſight of this elegant and truly valuable gift.

The eyes of the former ſwam in tears, and the folded hands of the latter were lifted up to invoke thoſe bleſſings which his overcharged heart would

would fain call down on the head of the amiable donor.

That pattern of excellence was pleaſingly affected by the gratitude of the admiring cottagers; and to give them leiſure to compoſe themſelves, he ſtepped aſide to give ſome neceſſary orders to his attendants.

He was ſcarcely out of ſight, when the ſhepherd exclaimed:—"Charles, "my dear, my ever-valued ſon, keep "conſtantly in your memory the "goodneſs and affection of this noble "character, that where ever, in the "courſe of Providence, you may be "thrown, you may ever ſtudy to "behave in ſuch a manner, as ſhall "yield him ſatisfaction, and render "me the happieſt of mortals.

"Yes, Charles," ſaid the good old

old man, "let me but hear that you "have acted with virtue and integrity "in the ſtation to which you are now "invited, and then if Heaven ſhould "demand your life, I truſt I ſhould "bow with reſignation to its Divine "Will; or if it ſhould permit me "again to behold you in the land of "your nativity, my heart, my ſwel-"ling heart, ſhall ſtrive to expreſs my "thanks to you for carefully attend-"ing to my directions."

"My dear, my honoured parent," ſaid Charles, with a bended knee and expreſſive countenance, "let me in-"treat you to ſet your heart at reſt "concerning theſe pious admonitions; "for here I promiſe, before the Judge "of all events, to cleave to your ad-"vice, to treaſure up your counſels,

"and

" and to frame the courſe of my " practice as nearly as poſſible to the " tenor of your own wiſhes." Then turning to Mr. Loveboy, who entered the room—" And to you, my worthy " and noble benefactor, do I promiſe " to act in ſuch a manner as I truſt " you will approve: and though no- " thing can ever expreſs the full ex- " tent of my gratitude, it ſhall at " leaſt evince my ardour to merit " that attention which you have ſo " laviſhly beſtowed upon your poor " little villager."

" You are an excellent youth," ſaid his patron, " and Heaven, I " truſt, will ſtrengthen your preſent " intentions."

" I hope ſo too," ſaid Mr. Wood-

bine, " and to its unfailing care I " commit my boy entirely."

" You are to be applauded," rejoined his friend, " but I believe the " conveyance is ready for our little " traveller; therefore, if you will " follow me to the lawn, we may there " give him our adieus, and ſee him " begin his journey."

He was accordingly followed by the grateful ſhepherd and his affectionate ſon till they came to the ſpot, where a chaiſe ſtood ready for our hero's reception, and into which (after repeated vows of duty to his parent, and gratitude to his benefactor), he leaped with alacrity; and praying God to bleſs them, he drew up the glaſſes, and departed.

For ſome time his friends remained attentively

attentively regarding the progreſs of the carriage which contained the object of their love, till the ſhady trees concealed it from their view.

Then, Thomas Woodbine reflecting that his ſheep were in the care of a ſtranger, repeated his acknowledgments to the patron of his ſon, and retired to his occupation with more than uſual pleaſure; whilſt Mr. Loveboy returned to his houſe, with the matchleſs ſatisfaction of having beſtowed happineſs on the virtuous, though indigent, ſons of nature.

CHAP. XII.

EMBARKATION; REFLECTIONS; AND A SONG.

CHARLES ſoon arrived, in perfect ſafety, at the place of embarkation; where he was received on board a ſhip, entitled the Fortune, by a perſon apparently about fifty years of age. His ſilver locks venerably ſhaded a countenance whereon mildneſs and compaſſion was ſtamped by Heaven; and his whole deportment was that of a complete gentleman, moſt amiably blended with the dignity of a true Chriſtian.

To this intereſting object the ſhepherd's ſon was now to look up, as to the guide of his youth, and the friend of

of his fortune: and Mr. Friendly (for ſuch was the gentleman's name), convinced our adventurer, by the warmth of his careſſes, and the ſolemn aſſurances which he gave him of protection, that he was extremely delighted with the acquiſition of his young companion. Charles, on the other part, was abſolutely enraptured with the manners and converſation of his new patron; and fervently returned thanks to Heaven for ſuch a freſh manifeſtation of its Divine Favour towards him.

After they had ſupped together, and the cloth was removed, Mr. Friendly began to inform his attendant of thoſe particulars in which his ſervice would be required, and which

Mr. Loveboy recounted in the preceding chapter.

He then proſtrated himſelf before the Majeſty of Heaven, and in the courſe of his devotions implored ſuch bleſſings from the ſource of unalterable goodneſs, as completely melted the heart of our little peaſant, and wonderfully increaſed his veneration for the devout ſupplicant.

The gentleman now retired to his bed; and Charles, affectionately wiſhing him a good night, aſcended the deck of the veſſel, to enjoy the view of the water by moonlight: for this purpoſe he placed himſelf on the forecaſtle, and beheld with unutterable pleaſure the beauteous ſcene which Nature diſplayed to his delighted eyes.

The

The rolling billows gently murmured round the ſhip, and curled in beauteous circles over the wide expanſe; while, clear from clouds, the queen of night ſhone forth, and Heaven was decked with twice ten thouſand ſtars. Such undiſturbed ſerenity, mingled with the warmth of a ſuſceptible boſom, produced the following reflections in the mind of the young voyager, who attentively regarding the brightneſs of the moon, exclaimed:—

"How vaſt, how matchleſs, is thy "love, Great Object of my adora- "tion, to me, a poor, a ſimple, cot- "tager! Hitherto thou haſt provided "for all my wants; protected my "perſon, and enlightened my under- "ſtanding! Thou haſt raiſed up for me

"two

" two great and invaluable friends,
" who have both fervently aſſured me
" of their favour! Thy bounteous
" hand hath opened to my view the
" ineſtimable ſtores of knowledge;
" and hitherto I can truly ſay, that I
" have been the object of thy unre-
" mitting care! To Thee I look for
" thoſe bleſſings which I yet may
" ſtand in need of; and on Thee
" alone my hope relies for peace and
" preſervation."

From this addreſs to his Maker, Charles began to turn his thoughts towards the cottage of his humble parents; and felt his boſom glow with more than filial love, whilſt he contemplated their former kindneſs, and preſent anxiety for the welfare of their child.

" Thrice

" Thrice bleſſed pair," he cried,
" whoſe tender hearts ſo often have
" melted with inexpreſſible tender-
" neſs over your little ſon! May
" Heaven reward your kind atten-
" tions, and repay your inceſſant
" cares with every bleſſing from
" above! O may the celeſtial ſpirits,
" who guard the juſt, ſtill hover
" round your lowly hut, and ſhield
" your earthly frames beneath the
" broad pinions of eternal ſafety;
" while He who rules the vaſt cre-
" ation, ſhall deign to ſmile on your
" employments. Long may thy flock
" remain, my deareſt father, un-
" touched by cruel man, or the fell
" wolf that roves the mountain;
" while the ſweet tenant of the foreſt
" lulls thy ſoul with his delicious mu-

" ſic

" ſic, and nature breathes her richeſt
" odours around thee: and when at
" cloſe of day the leader's tinkling
" bell draws the young lambkins
" down the winding path which leads
" them to their fold, O may their
" ſhepherd taſte the rich repaſt of
" reaſon and of virtue.

" Thee too, my tender mother,
" whoſe ready hand prepares the
" wholeſome viand, or the freſh
" drawn milk, may Heaven auſpi-
" cious view thy pleaſing taſk, and
" crown thy ſimple banquet with
" content.

" Should an All Gracious Provi-
" dence permit my eager feet once
" more to enter your undiſturbed
" retreat, I truſt I ſhall there per-
" ceive the goodneſs of the Almighty

" evinced

" evinced in your preſervation; and
" rejoicing myſelf in the fulneſs of
" bliſs, behold your happineſs with a
" thankful heart.

" But now my new patron de-
" mands my attention, and calls for
" my fervent prayers on his account.
" Yes, generous benefactor, the pe-
" titions of thy undeſerving favourite
" ſhall inceſſantly riſe from a heart
" overwhelmed with thy goodneſs;
" and I humbly truſt my Creator
" will vouchſafe to ſend me an an-
" ſwer of peace.

" My preſent ſtation likewiſe de-
" mands my ſober thought.

" Recommended by one excellent
" character to the protection of ano-
" ther, let me ſtudy to behave my-
" ſelf in ſo diſcreet a manner, that I

" may credit the recommendation of
" the former, and agreeably fulfil the
" expectations of the latter. I muſt
" remember the pious admonitions
" of my beloved parents, and make
" the law of God my conſtant rule
" of life; otherwiſe with what face
" can I again return to my native
" ſhore, or behold again the generous
" man who drew me from obſcurity,
" and placed me in the path to pre-
" ferment? How can I view the
" countenances of thoſe who have
" poured out their fondeſt wiſhes in
" prayer upon my account; and who
" have admoniſhed me both early
" and late to walk in the ways of wiſ-
" dom, if I ſo far forget myſelf as to
" neglect their ſolemn injunctions,
" and turn a rebel to the laws of my
" Creator?

" Creator? At preſent my inclina-
" tions are wholly on the ſide of vir-
" tue; and I rely on Heaven for the
" increaſe and ſupport of my pious
" reſolutions."

He now ſilently leaned on the front of the ſhip, and again was abſorbed in the contemplation of the expanded waters, and the azure ſky, till his fancy, enlivened by the beauty and tranquillity of their appearance, produced the following ſong:—

While ſoft o'er creation the Empreſs of night,
Unveiling her beauty, diffuſes her light;
Till deep in the quivering ſtream ſhe appears,
Or o'er the wild mountain the traveller cheers:
The view of ſuch grandeur refreſhes the mind;
And 'midſt the gay works their Creator I find.

Serene as the zephyr my fancy would rove,
Amidſt the bright proofs of celeſtial love;
Or guided by angels, to Paradiſe riſe,
And join for a moment the theme of the ſkies;
Where cherubims warble unſpeakable lays,
Compos'd by the faithful, and offer'd in praiſe.

Yet bound to the earth for a time I remain,
Obnoxious to ſickneſs, to ſorrow, and pain;
Till Providence changes my preſent abode,
And calls me to anſwer the ſummons of God.
O then may I taſte the rich bleſſings which flow
From practiſing virtue and wiſdom below.

CHAP. XIII.

THE VOYAGE CONCLUDED; WITH SINCERE REJOICINGS.

NOT to fatigue our readers with an account of the voyage, which would be unimportant to our deſign, and ſcarcely entertaining in itſelf, we proceed to inform them, that after our hero had been at ſea the uſual time, with a tolerable wind in their favour, he arrived with his kind protector at the plantation which they had undertaken to viſit.

But how ſhall my pen deſcribe the ſincere raptures with which Mr. Friendly was received amongſt his dependants?

No ſooner had he conducted Charles

to his habitation, than the welcome news was ſpread abroad of his arrival; and multitudes of negroes ſurrounded the houſe, moſt fervently imploring a ſight of their beloved maſter, and thanking the Almighty for his ſafe return; while the women and children ran to procure the richeſt fruits, and the moſt fragrant flowers, as a humble preſent for their beloved Lord.

The former of theſe were carefully delivered to the ſteward, with the moſt pathetic intreaties for them to be accepted; and the latter were profuſely ſtrewed along the path which led to his houſe, and where they impatiently expected ſhortly to behold him.

At length he came to gratify their expectations; and he had the heart-felt ſatisfaction to find that a long abſence

ſence had in no wiſe decreaſed their fond attachment to him; but, on the contrary, he was received with the loudeſt acclamations, and the moſt unfeigned veneration, by the collected body.

He was much affected by the teſtimonies of their fidelity; and having ordered them a holiday for the morrow, and granted to each individual a moderate allowance of rum, he retired with watery eyes and a glowing heart from the intereſting ſcene; while Charles, whoſe warm and amiable ſpirit had caught the ſoft contagion, followed him with a light ſtep and enraptured mind.

Mr. Friendly having breakfaſted in the morning, gave his ſteward permiſſion to aſſemble the dependents on the

the lawn before his houſe, and placed himſelf in one of the front windows the better to view their ruſtic mirth, and grateful demonſtrations of felicity. From thence he beheld a number of delighted creatures ſeated on the verdant graſs, and eagerly partaking of thoſe refreſhments which were diſtributed amongſt them; while others were preparing garlands of flowers for the heads of thoſe who ſhould beſt diſtinguiſh themſelves in the feſtive dance, or other feats of rural hilarity, which were intended ſhortly to be ſhewn.

The rejoicing negroes, ſatisfied with their generous repaſt, now began to form themſelves into ſelect companies for the purpoſes aforeſaid. The jocund dance began to the infinite de-

light

light of its beholders, who were peculiarly ſtruck with the ſincere gratitude of thoſe poor mortals, who, as often as they caught a glimpſe of Mr. Friendly, exclaimed—" Good Maſſa, " Heaven preſerve!" And waving their hands to the multitude, ſpread round the fond contagion, till the earth reſounded with ſhouts of triumphant affection.

Theſe were no ſooner exhauſted by the violence of their exertions, than a freſh company roſe up to renew the ſcene; and the heroes of the firſt attempt were received with applauſe, and crowned with the wreath of honour by their companions.

Thus was the return of their benefactor welcomed with the moſt ardent rejoicings till the afternoon, when every

every one of them received a ſmall preſent from England, and were again aſſembled to recruit their bodies by a pleaſing repaſt; at the cloſe of which they renewed the dance, and repeated the ſhout of praiſe; then leaping, ſinging, and rejoicing, departed to their reſpective habitations.

Charles and his patron now withdrew to their dinner; and when the table was cleared, Mr. Friendly thus addreſſed his young companion:—

"I doubt not, my dear Charles, "but you have been deeply and "agreeably affected by the ſcenes of "this day; and indeed it was with "the ſincereſt pleaſure that I beheld "your cheek repeatedly moiſtened "with the tear of ſenſibility, while "my affectionate ſervants were loudly

"intreating

" intreating Heaven to ſhower down
" its bleſſings upon me. It has ever
" been my cuſtom to treat theſe peo-
" ple rather as my children than my
" ſlaves; and I truſt, if ever Provi-
" dence ſhould give you a power
" equal to mine, you would either
" act the ſame by them, or give them
" the ineſtimable bleſſing of liberty."

" Alas, Sir!" ſaid young Wood-
bine, " it is impoſſible that I, the ſon
" of a ſimple peaſant, ſhould ever ar-
" rive to that height which Divine
" Goodneſs hath placed you in, and
" which you ſo nobly adorn."

" Perhaps not," rejoined his friend;
" only let virtue be the guide of all
" your actions, and then fortune may
" prove more favourable than at pre-
" ſent you can expect. The illuſtri-

" ous

" ous parent of the wiſeſt man who
" ever reigned upon the earth was
" once a ſimple youth, and kept his
" father's ſheep; and to deſcend to
" common life, we often ſee the
" brighteſt, beſt, and moſt ingenious
" characters, taken from the vale of
" poverty, and exalted to adorn the
" world.

" Howbeit, let your conſtant ſtudy
" be to worſhip your Creator, and
" love your neighbour as ſincerely as
" you love yourſelf; and then, what-
" ever may be your fortune, your
" life will be honourable, and your
" death completely happy. You
" have been an eye witneſs of thoſe
" rejoicings with which my people
" have received me: you have heard
" the fond effuſions of their grati-

" tude,

" tude, and have ſeen them kiſs the
" ground on which my feet have trod-
" den. The reaſon is very obvious.
" While many planters regard them
" merely as ſlaves to perform their
" will, and laſh them with needleſs
" ſeverity to their daily taſks, or by
" torments more acute, diſgrace
" themſelves, and render thoſe poor
" wretches perpetually miſerable, I
" have ever made it my ſtudy to pro-
" portion their labour to their ſtrength
" and ſpirits; and inſtead of treating
" them as beaſts of burden, I have,
" by kindneſs and humane behaviour
" towards them, rendered them truly
" good, and faithful to my intereſts
" and perſon.

" In my abſence, my ſteward fol-
" lows my directions exactly; ſo that

" on my return I have always the " pleaſure to ſee my ſervants happy, " and to find myſelf the object of " their warmeſt eſteem."

With ſuch diſcourſe (which tended to diſplay the oppoſite effects of cruelty and benevolence to the expanding mind), was Charles entertained by his amiable maſter, who ſeemed more delighted with his young aſſociate the longer he converſed with him; and for the ſpace of two years they mutually enjoyed the bleſſings of Providence; each riſing ſun bringing new pleaſures to their manſion, and each ſucceeding evening inviting them to a balmy repoſe.

Our hero might now be ſaid to taſte the perfection of happineſs; yet ſometimes a gentle ſigh would riſe from

from his boſom, which naturally retained a ſtrong degree of anxiety reſpecting his dear parents, and a forcible wiſh once more to behold their ſimple habitation: theſe, however, were over-ruled by a pious reſignation to the will of Heaven, which in all events is the beſt judge of our felicity.

Provided with all the comforts of life, and honoured with the friendſhip of his patron, Charles Woodbine adored his Maker for the preſent diſpoſition of his circumſtances; and while his lips expreſſed his praiſe to the Righteous Giver, his heart relied upon the Eternal Providence for aid and protection in every future ſcene which might precede the cloſe of life.

CHAP. XIV.

A STROKE OF FATE; A WILL; AND A LETTER.

It was near ten o'clock in the evening, juſt as Mr. Friendly and young Woodbine had finiſhed ſupper, that the latter was much alarmed by hearing his valuable friend complain of a violent indiſpoſition, from which he ſeemed to think he never ſhould recover. He went, however, to bed, and a medical gentleman was inſtantly called in, who bled him immediately, and adminiſtered ſuch medicines as the nature of his patient's diſtemper ſeemed to require; but on being aſked at his departure what was his real opinion, he ſhook his head, and replied, it

it was impoſſible to tell whether he might recover; but he added, it was his preſent belief, that Mr. Friendly was ſtruck with death; and therefore he requeſted his friends might be prepared for that awful event, which might take place in a few hours.

He then departed, and left poor Charles almoſt choaked with tears, and diſtracted at this melancholy information. Yet he endeavoured, as much as poſſible, to conceal the ſorrow which ſwelled his heart almoſt to burſting, and flew to the bed of his beloved maſter; then falling on his knees by its ſide, he fervently embraced the hand which Mr. Friendly had reclined on the quilt, and preſſing it to his panting boſom, he bedewed it with an involuntary burſt of grief,

and ſobbed an emphatic prayer to the Moſt High for the valued life of his benefactor. After the violence of his paſſion was abated, he wiped the honoured hand from his tears, and fixed his aching eyes on the pallid countenance of the afflicted ſufferer, whoſe heart was melted by the tenderneſs of his young attendant, and who now beholding him with a look of expreſſive fondneſs, ſaid:—

"It is doubtleſs a ſevere trial, my "beloved youth, which you now ex- "perience: you have ever loved me "as a parent, and I, on my part, "have ſtudied your welfare with un- "remitting care; but now I am per- "ſuaded we muſt be ſeparated till "the reſurrection of the juſt: yet "grieve not, my Charles, as thoſe

"who

" who have no hope; neither ſuppoſe
" that Heaven will forſake you be-
" cauſe I am taken from you. Re-
" member what I have ſo often told
" you, that if you purſue the paths
" of virtue, Providence will make
" you its conſtant care; but if you
" ſuffer yourſelf to be led aſtray, you
" will aſſuredly repent it either ſooner
" or later."

Charles could ſcarce reply to this affecting language; but, at length, through many riſing ſobs, he declared that his whole life ſhould be guided by thoſe pious directions.

Knowing that his patron ſtood in need of reſt, he relinquiſhed the dear hand, which was ſtill joined to his throbbing breaſt, and retired to his apartment.

Early

Early the next morning he was ſummoned to attend his departing friend, for the pains of death were now upon him, and he requeſted that Woodbine might come, and receive his benediction.

Beholding him enter the room, he lifted his trembling hands to Heaven, and pronounced the moſt ſolemn bleſſings on his favourite; then preſſing his hand with the tendereſt rapture, he aſſured the attendant friends who hovered round him, that he was firmly aſſured of, and rejoiced in the bleſſed hope of, a glorious immortality. Then turning once more to the object of his tender care, he earneſtly intreated the Holy One of Heaven to ratify his bleſſing.

A few moments he was ſilent, gazing

ing tenderly on the weeping youth; then raiſing his eyes upwards with a beaming ray of ſatisfaction, he eagerly exclaimed:—"My prayer is heard; "and Woodbine ſhall be bleſt."—— Articulation failed; his eye-ſtrings broke; and ruthleſs death received its prey.

I ſhall not attempt to paint the ſucceeding ſcene; it may be much eaſier imagined than deſcribed; therefore to the warm and tender imagination I ſhall leave it.

After the funeral had taken place, our hero was one day ſearching a cabinet, to which he had been directed by his departing friend, where, after turning over ſeveral articles, his eyes were fixed on a parchment, which proved to be his beloved maſter's will.

will. He peruſed it for ſome time, with no other concern than what aroſe from his heavy loſs; but after reading over a number of legacies intended for particular perſons, he was ſurprized beyond deſcription, to find himſelf the ſole and appointed heir of all his patron's remaining eſtates and riches. At firſt he could ſcarcely believe it a reality; but after he was thoroughly convinced by repeatedly and diſtinctly reading it, he threw himſelf on his knees, and claſped his hands in the attitude of a humble ſupplicant; but his ſwoln heart was too full to admit of utterance, till a ſhower of tears came to his relief; when proſtrating himſelf on the ground, he adored, in the moſt pathetic language, the goodneſs and clemency

mency of God, who had in ſo wonderful a manner raiſed him from total obſcurity to the rank which he now held, as the poſſeſſor of five thouſand a year! "O," ſaid he, "vouchſafe, "Great Director of our humble actions, to enlarge my ſoul with my "circumſtances; and direct my ge-"neroſity to proper objects, that I "may neither hoard with avarice, "nor ſquander in wantonneſs, that "wealth which my God has given "me. Let the poor, the infirm, the "blind, and lame, be fed and che-"riſhed by my liberality; and when-"ever I approach the habitations of "miſery, direct my ſpirit to act con-"ſiſtent with thy bleſſed commands, "in relieving the ſons of wretched-"neſs, or taking the abandoned out-

"caſt

" caſt to my habitation. O defend " me from unſeemly pride, that rock " on which thouſands ſplit; and kin- " dle every day that ſacred fire in my " ſoul, which may bear my prayers " and praiſes as incenſe to the ſacred " courts above.

" Finally, indulgent Creator, I " preſume to crave thy aid and pro- " tection through the reſidue of my " life; and meekly implore a ſuitable " preparation of my ſpirit for an ap- " proaching eternity: while to thy " righteous care and keeping, I com- " mit the lives and concerns of my " dear parents and valued friends."

He now aroſe with a lighter heart, and more compoſed mind; when calling in the friends and ſervants of the deceaſed, he read the will in the midſt

midſt of them; who, far from appearing diſpleaſed with the circumſtance which had ſo deeply affected Mr. Woodbine, they cordially wiſhed him joy of his good fortune; and many even wept with the overflowing tranſport they experienced.

He immediately aſſembled the perſons ſpecified in the will, and made a juſt diſtribution of the legacies therein mentioned; and having amply rewarded each of the ſervants for their fidelity to their former maſter, he gave the ſlaves their liberty, and agreed to ſell his plantation to a neighbouring gentleman, who, like Mr. Friendly, was renowned for his benevolence and humanity.

It was ſome time before he was freed from the careſſes of the weeping

throng, who wearied him with prayers to ſtay amongſt them; but at laſt he broke from them with an overflowing heart, and ſecluded himſelf awhile in his private ſtudy.

When he was ſomewhat refreſhed, and more tranquil in his ſpirit, he ſeized the bleſſed opportunity of writing to the beloved inhabitants of his native cottage; and taking up the pen for that purpoſe, he wrote as follows:—

My ever dear and honoured parents,

IT is with the deepeſt regret that I inform you, my beloved patron is no more. He is gone to a fairer world, and ſpirits more congenial with his own, than the inhabitants of this terraqueous globe. His life was honourable;

nourable; and with praiſe to God I add, his death was truly happy. But, O my deareſt parents, how ſhall I relate it? yet true it is, that this good, this noble character, has left the whole of his fortune (a few legacies excepted), to the ſon of a cottager; even to the diſpoſal of your own beloved Charles. I know you are aſtoniſhed at the recital, as I have likewiſe been; but you may reſt aſſured of its veracity. I have engaged to ſell my plantation; and I intend ſhortly to viſit once more the dear abode of ruſtic felicity, that I may join you in praiſe to Him who hath made me what I am.

Convey this news to my dear ſurviving patron, Mr. Loveboy; and aſſure him I will fly with the warmeſt

acknowledgments to his preſence, when I have cheared the ſight of my invaluable parents by the return of

Their ever loving,

and affectionate ſon,

C. WOODBINE.

CHAP.

CHAP. XV.

OUR HERO'S RETURN; RECEPTION; AND INTERVIEW WITH A LADY.

SEVEN months had now elapſed ſince the letter which concluded our laſt chapter was written; and our juvenile traveller at length arrived in perfect ſafety at the reſidence of his anceſtors.

The ſun was juſt riſen from the bluſhing eaſt, the ſhepherd was ſtanding at the little gate which led to his cottage, when a poſt-chaiſe ſtopt before him, and his ſenſes were nearly overturned by the ſudden appearance of the darling of his ſoul.

Breathleſs with rapture at the charming ſight, he ruſhed impatiently to the arms of his ſon, who warmly

returned his ſtrict embrace; and "My ſon!"—"My father!" burſt from their lips at the ſame moment; when nature, melted down before the fervid beams of pleaſure, diſſolv'd into a chryſtal flood of inexpreſſive ſympathy.

Indeed the ſcene muſt have been truly affecting, ſince it cauſed the poſtillion to draw his hand acroſs thoſe eyes which were unapt to weep.

Thus ſtood the amiable pair, and thus affected gazed the ruſtic driver, when Mrs. Woodbine came out to feed her chickens.

She no ſooner caught a glimpſe of her huſband's ſituation, than nature whiſpered to her heart the cauſe; and ſwift as the hunter that ſcours along the level plain, ſhe ran to the ſpot, and

and realized her fond imaginations. But if the ſcene ſo deeply affected her huſband, think, ye whom Heaven has bleſt with a ſuſceptible heart, what were the feelings of a tender, doating mother, at the ſight of that dear youth for whom alone ſhe wiſhed to live; for whom ſhe prayed inceſſantly; and in whom her very ſoul ſeemed to be centered.

She came to her child; ſhe gazed a moment on his features; but the view was too much for her tender nature. Down dropped the barley from her hand, which the fowls unbidden picked; and prone to earth ſhe ſunk her fainting head; but the outſtretched arms of her ſon and huſband prevented her falling to the ground. They chafed her temples, ſprinkled

ſome

ſome cooling drops from the neighbouring rill on her face, and bent her forwards till ſhe began to revive. At length ſhe regained the uſe of her faculties; and again beholding her beloved ſon, ſhe exclaimed:—"My "God, I thank thee!" and would inevitably have relapſed, had not a torrent of tears relieved her; but theſe happily lent their needful and timely aſſiſtance, and were plentifully mingled with thoſe of her dear companions.

The poſtboy too was much affected; and he who had before wiped from his face one guſhing drop of tenderneſs, now ſobbed audibly, and gave a free vent to the emotions of his heart.

He was now diſmiſſed, with a handſome

handſome preſent; and the happy trio walked arm in arm to the bleſt abode of peaceful ſerenity.

Here they were indeed completely happy, while Charles recounted the various incidents of his voyage; and when he deſcribed the hearty rejoicings of the poor negroes, his good old parents alternately laughed and wept at the intereſting recital: but when he came to expatiate on the death of Mr. Friendly, their poor boſoms throbbed with grief, and their aged eyes were almoſt drowned in tears. This tribute of affection paid, other ſubjects aroſe ſpontaneous from the preſence of their ſon, diſperſed the clouds, and ſhed the glorious rays of pleaſure around their venerable heads.

Breakfaſt was now prepared; and the

the ſame porringers and ſpoons produced which we had occaſion to mention at a former unexpected interview. This created a great deal of harmleſs mirth; as Charles repeated the laughable incident with that degree of humour which naturally ariſes from a heart contented with its own actions, and a ſtranger to every ſpecies of vice.

The wholeſome meal being concluded, it was deliberated whether they ſhould ſend Mr. Loveboy word of the ſtranger's arrival, or whether he ſhould immediately pay him his reſpects in perſon.

Many were the reaſons urged on both ſides the queſtion; but at laſt the emotions of gratitude prevailed, and Charles reſolved to ſeek his patron immediately; accordingly, he bade his dear

dear friends adieu, and ſallied forth to the dwelling of Mr. Loveboy.

That gentleman was ſitting in his ſtudy, at the moment of our hero's arrival; who knowing the ways of the houſe, had walked in without knocking, as the door ſtood open to receive the balmy zephyrs of the morning.

He no ſooner entered the room, than Mr. Loveboy inſtantly recognized the features of the ſhepherd's ſon; and claſping him to his breaſt with the warmth of a parent, he adored the goodneſs of the Almighty, who had thus granted the requeſt of his heart, and bleſſed him with beholding the ſafe return of his favourite to the land of his nativity.

He then communicated ſome private order to one of his ſervants; and warmly

warmly congratulated Charles on the ſubject of his return, and the acquiſition of his fortune. "A fortune," ſaid he, "which I peculiarly rejoice "in, as the juſt reward of affection "and virtue."

In about an hour's time the bells of the village began to ring melodiouſly; and a number of peaſants aſſembled in their Sunday clothes at the manſion of Mr. Loveboy, who gave them a hearty welcome, and brought them to Charles, who gratefully received their ſincere, though unpoliſhed, demonſtrations of joy.

For theſe a plentiful dinner was prepared, while Charles was regaled with an elegant banquet, which the ſervants had juſt provided, and which was graced by the agreeable company, and

and charming converſation of Mr. Loveboy's only daughter, who was the pride of the country in reſpect of her perſon, and a pattern to the world for modeſty, prudence, and politeneſs. Charles was ſurprized at the beauty of her countenance, and delighted beyond expreſſion with the ſweetneſs of her diſcourſe, and the unaffected affability of her manners. She queſtioned him reſpecting his journey, the particulars of his voyage, and his various adventures, with which the reader is already acquainted; and from all his replies ſhe received the higheſt ſatisfaction, as Charles evidently endeavoured, through the whole courſe of their converſation, to render that pleaſure (in ſome degree at leaſt) to her which himſelf received from her charming company,

and the bright diſplay of her underſtanding.

Her father appeared delighted with the budding friendſhip of the young friends; and occaſionally endeavoured to increaſe the hilarity of the moment by his own pertinent and facetious remarks.

Thus paſſed the day; till Charles, recollecting with what anxiety his honoured parents muſt wait his return, he politely acknowledged the grateful ſenſe which he had of Mr. Loveboy's unmerited attentions towards him, and begged permiſſion to retire. This was a propoſal, however, to which his friend would not accede, till he had ſolemnly promiſed to ſpend (at the leaſt) one part of every day with him, till he ſhould think fit to ſettle himſelf;

ſelf; and even then he hinted a wiſh that they might be honoured with his reſidence in their own village.

This promiſe being freely given, Miſs Loveboy entertained our hero before his departure with a beautiful concerto on the grand piano-forte, of which ſhe was a perfect miſtreſs. The brilliancy of her execution, and the melody of the inſtrument, completed that conqueſt which beauty, united with a powerful wit, had begun; and Charles, affectionately bidding his generous entertainers adieu, returned to his father's hut, but left his heart behind him.

CHAP. XVI.

A PROOF OF AFFECTION; CONFESSION; AND ACCEPTANCE.

MR Woodbine had left his father's abode about ſeven o'clock in the morning, nearly a month after the concluſion of our laſt recital, and was taking a ramble in Mr Loveboy's garden; when the fair Matilda (for ſuch was the name of the lady before mentioned), was leaning over a Chineſe railing, (which encompaſſed a beautiful pond), and amuſed herſelf by throwing bits of bread to the gold and ſilver fiſhes, which wantonly ſported amidſt the circles of the water. In this poſition Charles eſpied her; and whilſt he was gazing with a profound admiration on the delicacy of her frame,

frame, and the ſymmetry of her ſhape, that part of the railing on which ſhe was leaning ſuddenly gave way, and before ſhe could attempt to ſave herſelf, ſhe plunged headlong into the watery element. Our hero, alarmed and diſtracted with the terrible ſight, darted with the velocity of an arrow along the path, and inſtantly leaped into the pond for her reſcue, which (as the water was not very deep) he happily effected. He drew her tenderly to the verdant plat which ſurrounded the ſpot of her misfortune, and ſupporting her head on his boſom, endeavoured to reſtore thoſe ſenſes, by every requiſite means, which the fright had driven from her.

At length he had the pleaſure to ſee them return; when raiſing herſelf a little, and fixing her fine blue eyes on

young Woodbine with a mixture of gratitude and affection, ſhe exclaimed: —"O my deliverer! how ſhall I re-" pay you?" This was a queſtion which awakened the tendereſt thoughts of her companion's heart, and impelled him to make a confeſſion which his modeſty had hitherto withheld him from. Looking on her therefore with a paſſionate degree of tenderneſs, he replied, "Was I not well aſſured of "the vaſt diſproportion which is be-"tween us, I might indeed grow bold "upon your ſweet interrogation, and "preſume to aſk a bleſſing, to which the whole creation cannot produce an equivalent."

"Diſproportion between us!" returned the languid fair one; "I am "indeed ſorry to hear ſuch a word "proceed from your lips; for my own

" part, I aſſure you that I regard you
" entirely as my equal, ſince your
" virtue hath ſhone ſo conſpicuous in
" all your actions, that by it alone you
" have received the advantages of for-
" tune; and my father has often de-
" clared, that he eſteems you far
" above the whole circle of his ac-
" quaintance. Aſk then, my kind
" deliverer, for what you have hinted
" at, and let it be what it may, you
" may reſt aſſured you will not meet
" with a denial from Matilda Love-
" boy."

Emboldened by this charming declaration, Charles avowed his love for her in the moſt delicate and reſpectful language, and thus convinced her that the ineſtimable gift at which he had hinted, was that of her own fair hand. Yet he acknowledged his own obſcure

obſcure birth and former ſituation, which he ſaid might doubtleſs prejudice her father againſt him, if he ſhould preſume to demand in marriage the only child of that man who firſt raiſed him from abſolute indigence, and whoſe generous hand diſperſed, by his munificence, the clouds of ignorance from his mind.

She readily replied to the laſt part of his diſcourſe, by obſerving, that innate goodneſs, and not extraction, would be ſought by herſelf, and her worthy parent, in the moſt important action of her life. But to that part of his diſcourſe which tended to diſplay the ſtrength and purity of his affection, ſhe replied, (with a bluſh which greatly added to her natural charms), that if his happineſs depended on herſelf, ſhe would by no means

means keep him in ſuſpence; but as her dear father had ever been conſulted by her on every occaſion, ſhe muſt of courſe requeſt his advice before ſhe could attempt to form any reſolution in a matter of ſuch conſequence as the preſent: nevertheleſs, ſhe added, that ſhe had not the ſmalleſt doubt of his agreeing to the propoſal, as he had ever ſtudied her inclinations, and conſtantly ſought to eſtabliſh or increaſe her felicity.

At the cloſe of this ſentence, Mr. Loveboy came from behind an arbour which hitherto had concealed him, and with a pleaſing ſmile thus addreſſed the young couple:—

"I cannot, poſſibly, my dear Ma-
"tilda, expreſs the ſatisfaction which
"I have felt during your converſation.
"With my friend Woodbine I am
"peculiarly

" peculiarly pleaſed, for his noble ſen-
" timents, and that humility, which
" are too ſeldom found to adorn the
" character of a man that is bleſſed
" with ſuch ample poſſeſſions. And
" with you, Matilda, I am truly de-
" lighted, for that ſincerity of dute-
" ous affection to which I have now
" been witneſs, and for which (if
" Heaven permits), it ſhall ever be
" my ſtudy to reward you.

" In anſwer, therefore, to my young
" friend, I obſerve, I ſhall eſteem
" myſelf happy in his alliance; and,
" with my daughter, will moſt cheer-
" fully give him my bleſſing. For as
" the moſt exalted character is de-
" baſed in the eyes of all good men by
" a ſeries of baſe or profligate ac-
" tions, ſo is the offspring of a pea-
" ſant ennobled in the eſteem of every

" pious

" pious man, by a continuance in
" well doing. Such is the caſe with
" my young friend: he has approved
" himſelf deſerving of attention on
" every occaſion; and I am ſincerely
" happy that it is now in my power to
" give him the ſtrongeſt proof of my
" eſteem."

To this endearing ſpeech our hero replied by a profuſion of the moſt grateful acknowledgments; and ſaid, he hoped his future life would evince the ſincerity of his profeſſions.

Mr. Loveboy ſhook him cordially by the hand, and then proceeded:—

" To you, my lovely daughter, I
" can only ſay, that you was perfectly
" right when you expected that I ſhould
" not oppoſe your inclinations. No,
" my deareſt girl, you have ever acted
" by my direction, and perfectly ful-

" filled

" filled my deſires; it is therefore not " only my permiſſion, but my re- " queſt, which you now receive, to " marry Mr. Woodbine, if your own " affections are conſiſtent with that " deſire; for I will never be the " means of ſacrificing my child's feli- " city to my own inclinations. How- " ever, in the preſent caſe, I fancy my " requeſt is not a diſagreeable one; " and as you muſt be the beſt judges " of your own deſires, I ſhall leave " you to ſettle the buſineſs as your " own hearts may direct you." With theſe words the old gentleman withdrew to his ſtudy, and left the young lovers mutually wrapt in admiration of his matchleſs generoſity.

" My beauteous maid," ſaid Charles, " you now ſee that your ex- " cellent parent has left my fate en- " tirely

" tirely at your own diſpoſal: to you,
" therefore, I muſt look for the fulfil-
" ment of my deſire; or from you I
" muſt receive a denial, which will in-
" fallibly wound me in the deepeſt
" manner. Such as I am, if you
" conſent to take me, you ſhall ever
" find me grateful, tender, and affec-
" tionate. If you think you can be
" happy with me, we will live in the
" moſt ſacred union, as curling ten-
" drils fondly twine around each
" other; and when our Maker ſhall
" ſummon us hence, one ſilent grave
" ſhall hold our peaceful aſhes. But
" if, upon any conſideration whatever,
" you wiſh to decline my offer, I will
" inſtantly releaſe you from your for-
" mer kind promiſe, and endeavour
" to reſign myſelf to the fatal diſap-

" pointment, till I ſink to my laſt re-
" poſe, and am forgotten."

" Heaven forbid," ſaid the charming virgin, " that ſuch amiable ten-
" derneſs ſhould be ſo baſely reward-
" ed; and if the poſſeſſion of Matil-
" da's hand and heart can make you
" happy, I freely give you the for-
" mer, and can aſſure you of the con-
" ſtancy of the latter."

Words are inadequate to expreſs the feelings of Mr. Woodbine. He claſped her to his boſom; he thanked her a thouſand times for the invaluable bleſſing ſhe had vouchſafed to grant him; and pouring out his affection in the moſt endearing expreſſions, he reconducted her to her generous father.

CHAP.

CHAP. XVII.

THE COTTAGE NEW MODELLED; AND A SEAT ERECTED.

THE ſhepherd and his wife were now mutually delighted with the news of their ſon's intended wedding; nor were they leſs agreeably ſurprized, when he informed them that he intended to new model their habitation, and erect a ſeat near it for the reception of himſelf and his intended bride. Yet his father obſerved, as they had been ſo long uſed to their preſent mode of life, he feared they might loſe both their health and ſpirits if deprived of their uſual occupations. "I am of the ſame opinion," replied Charles, "and therefore intend to ren-
"der your lives as happy as poſſible,

"without depriving you either of "your ancient cottage, or thoſe ruſtic "employments, in which you doubt- "leſs find much ſatisfaction."

His parents bleſſed him for the goodneſs of his heart, and were loading him with their praiſes, when the converſation was interrupted by the arrival of a viſitor, at whoſe approach young Woodbine ſtarted haſtily from his ſeat, and throwing his arms around him, exclaimed:—"Is it poſſible that "I behold my friend, my valued "companion, Placid!" It was indeed that young man, who, having heard of Charles's return, had taken a horſe from the academy on purpoſe to ſee him, and convey to him the affectionate congratulations of Mr. and Mrs. Careful on his noble fortune. When the firſt tranſports were over

which

which aroſe at the meeting of theſe faithful friends, and Placid had partaken of a light repaſt after his journey, he proceeded to deliver his meſſage from the maſter and miſtreſs of the boarding-ſchool, which exceedingly affected Mr. Woodbine, as it was replete with that affectionate kindneſs, which in his younger days he had ſo often received in the manſion of claſſical retirement. He had, however, the pleaſure to hear that they were both in perfect health, happy in themſelves, and univerſally beloved by all who knew them. And after a repetition of various incidents, and change of ſcholars which had taken place in the years which had paſſed ſince they purſued their ſtudies together, Placid thus proceeded:—

" Mr. Careful, with his accuſtomed " goodneſs, has provided for me, by " taking me as an aſſiſtant to himſelf " in the ſchool, for which he allows " me a competent reward; and I need " not tell you that I am perfectly " happy with ſuch people, and in " ſuch a ſituation. Maſter Froward, " who, like yourſelf, is now arrived to " the years of manhood, has received " the family eſtate by the demiſe of " his father; and from the time when " your ſweet admonitions won him to " your friendſhip, he has ever ſtudied " thoſe rules of piety which you ſo " exactly followed, and has been " often heard to bleſs Providence for " that reformation, which was cer- " tainly wrought in him by the noble " precepts, and more ſtriking exam- " ple, of the Shepherd's Son. Thus

" you

" you find his former pride is departed
" from him, and he is now ambitious
" only of the renown of virtue. He
" has lately married a virtuous lady;
" and we are credibly informed, that
" his daily actions are the boaſt and
" honour of the place which he inha-
" bits.

" Our ſchool is in a very flouriſhing
" condition; and ſince the misfortune
" which Froward experienced, every
" ſpecies of cruelty has been baniſhed
" from our ſociety, and the preſent
" ſcholars are in general of a good
" diſpoſition."

" I am extremely happy," ſaid Charles, " at ſo good an account of
" our old playmate; and feel myſelf
" deeply intereſted in the welfare of
" your ſeminary, which, perhaps, I
" may ſhortly viſit: however, you

" muſt

" muſt firſt ſpend a few days with " me; and though I ſhall at preſent " permit you to return, as I know " your friends will be anxious for you " to carry them the news, yet I ſhall " abſolutely rely upon your company " in a day or two at the furtheſt."

Young Mr. Placid then prepared for his journey; and his friend putting a fifty pound bank note in his hand, and tenderly embracing him, committed him to the care of Providence; and ſent an affectionate meſſage to his old maſter, whom he ſtrongly invited, with Mrs. Careful, to come and ſee him.

The next morning the workmen came, in compliance with Mr. Woodbine's directions, and the little ſeat of feſtivity began to undergo a thorough alteration. Its rooms were now increaſed;

creaſed; the garden was enlarged; and, in ſhort, the little cottage was perfectly changed to a ſnug and convenient box, ſupplied with every requiſite, and ſuitable articles of furniture. At the back of the garden a little gate opened to a rich meadow, which was rendered more delightful by a verdant eminence, that was watered by a chryſtal ſtream which ſprung from its ſummit, and gently murmured down its moſſy ſide.

To this place were Thomas Woodbine's ſheep led by a neighbouring peaſant; and when Charles aroſe in the morning, he ſhewed them to his father as his own property, and no longer the flock of a maſter; for theſe were purchaſed by Charles, with the cottage, land, and meadow, that he might make the worthy ſhepherd a preſent

preſent ſuitable to his favourite employment. The old man ſhed many tears of joy at this munificent action of his ſon's; and his wife claſped her hands with ecſtaſy, but could utter nothing.

Now was our hero truly delighted; and now his boſom glowed with pleaſure. His former promiſe was more than fulfilled; and his former expectations abundantly exceeded. His parents were beyond expreſſion happy; and peace and contentment reigned undiſturbed in this little family, to which Charles now inſiſted upon adding a ſervant, to aſſiſt his mother in her daily taſks.

He now began to turn his attention towards his own ſeat, which was built exactly on a level with that of his father; and in the architecture of which grandeur

grandeur was ſweetly blended with ſimplicity. The gardens and pleaſure grounds were nothing inferior to thoſe of Mr. Loveboy; the furniture was conſiſtent with the appearance of the manſion; and the carriage which was built for him and the fair Matilda, was decidedly the moſt ſuperb in the county.

The building being completed, it was examined by Mr. and Miſs Loveboy, with ſeveral of their acquaintance, who unanimouſly declared it the moſt delightful ſpot they had ever ſeen.

Our young adventurer being now ſettled in his new abode, ſolicited his friends to honour him with their company to dinner. The invitation was accepted; a dinner was provided, which did honour to its hoſpitable founder;

founder; and the poor and diſeaſed of the village rejoiced over the remnants of it at their reſpective habitations; for every diſh which went from the table, was firſt given to the ſervants, and then diſtributed amongſt the ſons and daughters of indigent miſery.

When the cloth was removed, and converſation began to circulate, Charles reminded Mr. Loveboy, that as he was now ſituated, he muſt preſume to call upon him for a fulfilment of his promiſe. The good gentleman ſmiled at the obſervation of his intended ſon-in-law, and replied, he was ready to attend him to the altar, whenever he and Matilda ſhould think proper.

The enſuing Thurſday was named by

by Charles, and accepted by his friend. The bride elect bluſhed conſent; and the party broke up completely ſatisfied with each other.

CHAP. XVIII.

THE WEDDING MORNING; AND THE WISH ACCOMPLISHED.

LONG and tedious did the hours appear till Thurſday morning came; but no ſooner did it peep from the azure firmament, than every heart was filled with joy, and every tongue prepared to hail the general feſtivity. The tenants of Mr. Loveboy had aſſembled round his houſe by ſeven o'clock to ſtrew the path with flowers, and to behold their beloved lady go to be united with Mr. Woodbine, who, like herſelf, was the idol of the neighbourhood. At eight o'clock the lover's went to church, accompanied by their venerable parents, Mr. Loveboy, and Joſeph Placid, who had come to the

the village on the preceding evening; and after their vows were mutually pledged, they returned amidſt the applauſe of hundreds, whom reſpect and curioſity had drawn together.

On their entering Mr. Loveboy's drawing room, (for with him they agreed to ſpend the day), they were agreeably ſurprized to find Mr. and Mrs. Careful, who from an exceſs of affection had left their ſchool in care of a friend, and come to offer their congratulations on this happy occaſion. They were both received with the moſt unfeigned joy; and their charming pupil repeatedly expreſſed the high ſenſe which he had of the favour they conferred upon him.

A ſumptuous dinner was now produced; and while the joyous company within were abſorbed in the fulneſs

of felicity, the villagers on the lawn were rejoicing round an ox which was roaſted for their ſupply, and drinking the health of the bride and bride-groom in cups of ſparkling ale, which the ſteward was ordered to diſtribute amongſt them. Others were employed in the more delightful purpoſes of dancing, and other recreations, while the flute, the violin, and tambourine, enlivened the company, and aſſiſted the dancers. Good ſenſe, replete with humour, was preſent through the courſe of the entertainment; the ſounds of rejoicing were heard on every ſide; and every breaſt was a region of delight. Amidſt the gay diverſions, virtue was juſtly applauded; and in the height of merriment, true decorum kept its place.

In the courſe of the afternoon a lawyer

lawyer waited upon Mr. Woodbine with ſome parchments, which after he had taken from him, and requeſted him to be ſeated, our hero thus addreſſed the company:—

" It is well known to you all, my " honoured and worthy friends, that " the man who is this day permitted " to eſpouſe the charming Matilda, " was formerly a poor, ignorant, and " obſcure child, who, abſolutely a " ſtranger to learning, and the con- " cerns of the world, ſighed for the " advantages which fortune had " placed beyond his reach, and " winged his ſupplications to Heaven " from that hill where he daily " watched his father's fleecy charge.

" From that ſituation I was drawn " by the foſtering hand of this amia- " ble character, whoſe daughter now

" I have the honour to call my own.
" By him I was placed beneath the
" care of this worthy couple, (allud-
" ing to Mr. and Mrs. Careful);
" and from them I received a greater
" degree of attention than I ever had
" a right to expect. From you, my
" young friend, (turning to Placid),
" I received the deareſt marks of
" amity and eſteem; and, finally,
" from my ever honoured parents, I
" have drawn the beſt admonitions,
" and received continually the moſt
" endearing uſage.

" To you, therefore," (addreſſing his parents), " dear objects of my
" ſacred veneration, I give one hun-
" dred pounds per annum; and aſ-
" ſure you of the inviolable affection
" of that ſon whom you have ten-
" derly nurtured, and piouſly in-
" ſtructed

" ſtructed continually. To my ho-
" noured tutor I preſent this ſmall
" pledge of my gratitude," with which he preſented him with an elegant diamond ring, and a note of one hundred pounds; " and to you, my " dear friend," ſaid he (turning towards Placid) " who, by the miſchance of " your fortune, are deſtitute of pa-
" rents, and not only an orphan, but, " like myſelf, the ſubject of Mr. " Loveboy's generoſity, I preſent the " yearly ſum of fifty pounds; and if " ever you ſhould find yourſelf in " need of a friend, I truſt you will " inſtantly fly to him whoſe purſe " ſhall ever be open to ſupply your " wants, and whoſe houſe ſhall ever " be at your ſervice."

The company were now fully employed in their own reflections on this

this unexampled goodneſs; and the lovely Matilda expreſſed her pleaſure at the action of her huſband, in the ſweeteſt manner, when her father, taking up the diſcourſe, informed his ſon-in-law that he muſt now receive that portion which was juſtly due to his benevolent heart, and accordingly laid on the table notes to the amount of ten thouſand pounds, as his daughter's fortune.

The generous bridegroom abſolutely refuſed to accept it, declaring that he had a ſufficiency for his life; but his father-in-law peremptorily inſiſting on its being taken, the hero of our piece received it with ſuitable expreſſions, and completed the proof of his goodneſs, by immediately giving the ſum of two hundred pounds, to be

be diſtributed for charitable and humane purpoſes, in his own and the adjacent villages, obſerving, that as Heaven had raiſed him to the ſtile of a gentleman, it was both his duty and privilege to beſtow the gifts of his Creator amongſt the unhappy mortals who were once his equals, and muſt ever remain his fellow-creatures.

This action increaſed the acclamations of the company, and warmed the hearts of all his friends, who could, from this beginning, perceive what good he intended eſſentially to perform with that wealth which God had given him.

His mother, particularly ſtruck with his behaviour, informed the company, that ſhe had for many years retained one favourite wiſh within her breaſt, which was, that as Providence had

had placed herſelf and huſband in ſo low a ſtation, ſome friendly hand might draw her child from obſcurity, to receive the bleſsings of education, and that he might one day have it in his power to beſtow that bleſsing on others, which he then ſtood in need of ſo much for himſelf.

She was cordially congratulated by the whole aſſembly, on the complete fulfilment of her deſire; the objects of Mr. Woodbine's generoſity ſufficiently expreſſed their gratitude for the ſame; and, after an elegant ſupper was ſerved up, and the ſcene enlivened by a band of muſic, the evening cloſed with matchleſs ſatisfaction to all parties.

The ſhepherd and his wife adored their God for his unſpeakable goodneſs to themſelves and their child;

Mr.

Mr. Loveboy triumphed in the merciful act which called his darling to the higher ſtations of life; and Mr. Woodbine, with the fair Matilda, received within the bounds of their native village every bleſsing they could deſire.

Thus, by a conſtant adherence to the precepts of virtue, and the worſhip of the Almighty, was a SHEPHERD'S SON exalted to the ſummit of felicity, and thus was a mother's pious WISH ACCOMPLISHED.

FINIS.

Printed by G. Woodfall, 22, Paternoſter-row, London.

Of E. NEWBERY *may alſo be had,*

Juſt publiſhed,

	s.	d.
The STORIES of SENEX . . Price	1	6
FLORA, or the Deſerted Child . .	1	0
Amuſing and Inſtructive TALES for YOUTH, in Thirty Poems, with Moral Applications in Proſe; ornamented with *Wood Engravings, by* BEWICK	2	0
The SWALLOW	1	6
The WREN	1	6
The CANARY BIRD	1	6
The SPARROW	2	0
The BUDGET	1	6
The HERMIT of the BEACH . .	1	6
COOPER'S HISTORY of ENGLAND, *brought down to the Preſent Time* .	2	0
YOUTHFUL PORTRAITS . . .	1	6
FILIAL DUTY recommended and enforced	1	6
The HISTORY of the DAVENPORT FAMILY	1	6
KEEPER'S TRAVELS in Search of his Maſter	1	6
The Young Gentleman's and Lady's Magazine, or Repoſitory of Knowledge, Inſtruction, and Amuſement; with coloured Prints of Birds, Beaſts, Flowers, &c. &c. 2 Vols. boards 13s. half-bound 14s. elegant . . .	15	0

2 MA 67

BRITISH
31 JY 04
MUSEUM

S. Gosnell, Printer,
Little Queen Street, Holborn.